Saturday Night

December 19, 1953 · 10 Cents

The Front Page

Queen Elizabeth has a long way to go before she reaches the end of her tour of the Commonwealth, but already she must be thoroughly sick of the fatuous parades of vacant-faced men and simpering women that stretch endlessly along the route.

A Royal Visit, in theory, is an opportunity for the Queen to meet her subjects and for them, in one way or another, to meet her. In practice, it is the chance of a lifetime for petty officials and assertive snobs to grab a moment's glory by hobnobbing with Royalty in front of the gaping multitude, and they would rather die than miss that chance; they scrape and strut at such length that in most places the crowds gathered to cheer the Queen get only fleeting, distracted glimpses of her.

It is not, of course, the Queen's fault. She, poor soul, has to follow the script prepared for her—and just how shoddy a script it can be was revealed with embarrassing clarity a couple of weeks ago in Bermuda, when, at a state banquet, the Queen met 30 guests who had been invited (in the words of the Governor of the colony, Sir Alexander Hood) "according to precedence." Each of the 30 is a

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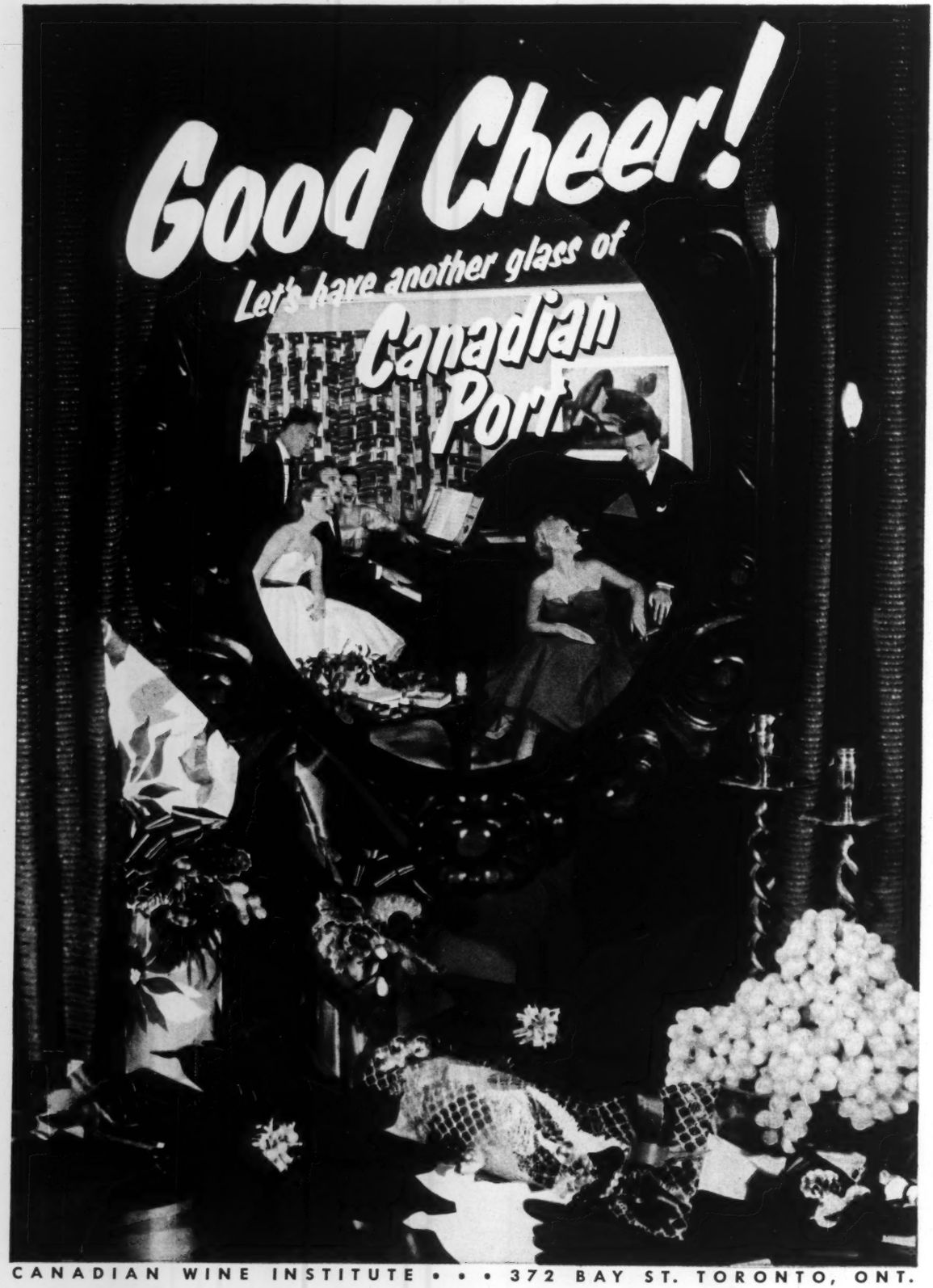
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL: No quiet sunset hour *(Page 3)*



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white person, but 60 per cent of the island's population is colored, which means that a majority of the Queen's subjects in Bermuda had no representative to meet her. It was a demonstration of colonial prejudice at its worst.

The example of Bermuda undoubtedly will be repeated, because the Commonwealth and Empire are still full of people with a little authority and a swollen regard for their own importance, who still act as if difference in social position or in color of skin justifies the division of Her Majesty's subjects into first and second class citizens.

Let her Ministers and appointed representatives kick out stiff protocol and stupid precedence when the Queen visits her subjects in her lands about the earth. She can meet all the officialdom she can stand without stirring more than a mile from Buckingham Palace. Let her get a breath of fresh air when she travels; let her meet the people who build the cities and run the machines and grow the crops. It will be a better Commonwealth for it.

Sophisticated City

A FRIEND of ours recently back from New York reports that the troubles with the longshoremen, the resurgence of Tammany, the collapse of the Giants and the election of a new mayor haven't even scratched the polished surface of Manhattan's charming suavity. As evidence he quoted an advertisement which appeared in one of the city's newspapers: "Authentic French hat-check girl for top French restaurant. Excellent chance for advances."

The Show Hunter

THERE IS a curious air of expectancy about a theatre used for live performances, during the hours when it is empty of actors and audiences; it seems to wait with a sort of irritable lethargy for the people who can make it a place of warmth and excitement. We felt this strongly the other morning, when we climbed the carpeted stairs of Toronto's Royal Alexandra to the cavernous office of Ernest Rawley, who manages the theatre. It is an office that holds, among other things, a littered desk, a small chandelier with six bulbs, three adjustable table lamps and 63 signed photographs of stage personalities, most of whom were stars during the twenties. "I have dozens of more recent pictures," Mr. Rawley said, "but somehow I never seem to get around to putting them up."

Mr. Rawley, who is 48 years of age, has been managing the Royal Alexandra since 1939. "But I first worked in this building back in 1927," he said. "I was working for a theatre chain which eventually went broke and was taken over by Famous Players. I stayed with them for a while, then did publicity as a free-lance. On the whole, things have gone fairly well here since 1939. I go down to New York four times a year in search of shows. Naturally, if we see anything good, we want to get it up here. But do you know, some of the producers have the strangest ideas about Canada? They ask me if I think their show will be a success here. I was actually asked that about *Oklahoma!* when I saw it for the first time, very soon after it opened.

"Next season looks like being better than this one. One difficulty is that a good many shows have been closing on the road before they even get here. And there just aren't enough good shows being written these days. You can't blame writers for going where the most money is—Hollywood and television—but at the same time, any playwright who does turn out a hit is sitting pretty. Take John Patrick, who wrote *Teahouse of the August Moon*. He can live on that for maybe ten years, what with weekly receipts, film rights, tours and so on. Another factor is that many a successful show won't put out a second company until the original production has been milked for a year or so—taxes, of course. Nobody wants to take in enough in one year to put income up into a prohibitive tax bracket.

"In spite of all this, we've had only about five dark weeks this year. I can remember the time during the Depression when we'd be open only eight weeks in a whole season. Theatres all over Canada closed in those days, and some of them reopened only to show films. You can't blame them; wages and taxes have to be paid. All the same, it's left our theatre situation a bit shaky. I occasionally get letters from English companies interested in a Canadian tour. I have to tell them reluctantly not to try it. Where could they go, outside Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and a couple of other places, and pay their expenses? The available theatres are few, the distances great."

Moodily, we trudged back down the stairs. The theatre was still a shell of expectancy.

Turofsky

ERNEST RAWLEY and friends, H. T. Hughes (left), general manager of the Sadler's Wells Ballet Company, and impresario Sol Hurok (right).

The Front Page

The Postal Gamble

GAMBLING IS a pastime we seldom indulge in—we are what might be called a veterate gambler—but we can stir up no gale of righteous wrath against those who enjoy it, probably because we have never been able to detect the spot of sin on a bingo card or to distinguish clearly between the people who contribute money to the betterment of race horses and their owners and those who use it to buy Mother Hubbards for female South Sea Islanders.

The Federal Government, of course, takes a much more restrictive view. If it must persist in declaring certain types of gambling illegal, however, it should clean up its own house, and as a start it might do something about the Post Office.

As we understand it, all ordinary first-class mail in Canada is delivered by air, if it will be speeded up thereby and provided there is room on the plane. Otherwise, it goes by train, dog-team or coureur du bois. We have no quarrel with this arrangement; in most other countries, it would be lucky to get within a postman's holler of a plane. What we quibble about is the fact that there is also an official air-mail rate of seven cents, with pretty blue stamps to match.

It seems that putting an air-mail stamp on a letter vastly improves its chances of being sent by air. The prudent, umbrella-and-rubbers type of citizen will buy an air-mail stamp and go about his business in smug security, pausing only to burn a little incense to the Meteorological Department. The sporty type, on the other hand, will take a four-cent chance and keep his fingers crossed. If this isn't an uncalculated risk, what is?

Fie on such hypocrisy! The Government should take its choice: either bestow its blessing on those honest citizens who become furtive in the Irish Sweepstakes season, or else purge the Post Office of the taint of gambling. This business of a double standard—seven cents for stern Methodists, with a guarantee limited only by the laws of nature, and four cents for the checkered-vest set, with a payoff as dubious as the whirl of a roulette wheel—is gambling on a national scale, and its tentacles reach into every writing desk in the land.

The McCarthy Touch

SENATOR MCCARTHY says he really isn't mad at President Eisenhower and State Secretary Dulles for ticking him off the other day, which reminds us of a letter we got last month from a good woman who thought every community should have a curfew for children. "It is a public disgrace to see children of tender years wandering around at all hours of the night," she wrote. "Of course, I don't blame the fathers and mothers; it's the parents I blame."

Man of Many Years

ABOUT THIS TIME a favorite game in the publishing world is the selection of a Man of the Year. There isn't a great deal of point to it, because the choice all too often is decided not by the person's achievements but by the amount of publicity he has received. Besides, true greatness is not the fruit of one year's labor; it is the accumulation of wisdom and accomplishment over many years. As an example, there is the man whose picture graces the first page of this issue. How many times during the past three decades, or more, could Sir Winston Churchill have been named the Man of the Year?

As he moves into 1954 and the eightieth year of his life, Sir Winston can look back on another twelve months of achievement and honor. Sickness beset him, there was restlessness among his parliamentary followers, and the great dream of his late years, a personal victory over the enmity separating East and West, was no closer to realization; but at the same time he could see his administration helping to bring new strength to his war-spent country and his own reputation as a statesman, writer, historian and orator grow ever more shining.

Time is running out for him. He may lead his Conservative Party into one more election, but few expect him to retain that leadership beyond the coming year. His enemies would like to hasten his retirement, and their fear of him is a measure of the greatness of the man. The left-wing *New Statesman and Nation*, for example, recently observed: "Sir Winston is not worrying unduly about the value of the immediate heritage he hands over to Mr. Eden or Mr. Butler.

The Front Page

His objective is rather to create, as it were, a trust-fund for Toryism . . . His purpose is to make certain that the obstacles before the next Labor Government shall be too great for it to advance in the direction of Socialism." In such fashion was tribute paid to his power as a political strategist. Just a few days later, Socialist Herbert Morrison said of him: "Mentally the Rt. Hon. Gentleman is a coalition in himself." This remark was expanded by the London *Spectator*: "There has never been a Prime Minister like him. He is a mixture of Palmerston and Peel shot through with the vivacity of Lloyd George."

For ourselves, we find it hard to think of a world without him—without the man who could enrich history with his deeds and words, lift whole nations with the strength of his own singing courage, and give men the phrases to describe events still to come. We hope he will be the Man of many years to come.

A Winter Sport

WHEN THE AIR is grey with snow and full of the agony of skidding tires, one of the more pleasant diversions is settling down comfortably with a seed catalogue, even when you have every intention of limiting your gardening to kicking idly at dandelion heads. But how rich the illustrations in the catalogues, how lush the flowers and vegetables, how ripe the prose in the testimonials! We look forward eagerly to reading again such a glowing bit as, "I have had outstanding success with your seed, sown last autumn, and have been blooming since early June and still a grand show."

A Keeper of Bees

IN THE SECOND FLOOR of the King Edward Hotel in Toronto was a-buzz a couple of weeks ago with people talking about such things as the spray poisoning situation in New York State and the effect of weather on nectar secretion. We found that the annual meeting of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association was under way there, and soon met Miss Muriel Willson, who manages the music supply department of the Royal Conservatory of Music and keeps bees as a hobby. "Most of the 350 delegates here are commercial beekeepers," she said. "But there are a few others, like myself, who keeps bees for fun or as a profitable sideline."

"I look after 55 colonies at my place at Cooksville," she said. "At the height of the summer, that means something like four million bees. The commercial producers, of course, generally have several hundred hives. I started with a three-pound package —that's the way you buy them. I don't know why I began, really, except that an uncle had kept bees and I got used to them. I was studying music and working as a tour guide, but when the war began the tours stopped, I took the job at the Conservatory and made bees my hobby.

"Bees don't often sting unless they're cranky about something. Rain puts them in a bad mood, and you have to be careful about disturbing them in the winter, when they're sleeping. They stay inside nearly all winter, but they might venture out on very mild days. You can tell when the warmer weather is on its way by their movements, just as you can judge when a storm is coming, because they all rush home before it breaks. A bee will find its way home from miles away, and if you move its hive only a matter of a few feet it will return to the spot where the hive was and hover, puzzled. It has a sort of built-in radar. They're pretty ingenious things; for example, they have their own ideas about air conditioning. The first honey in the combs is runny, and they go about lowering its moisture content from 70 to 17 per cent by standing just inside the hive and fluttering their wings furiously to create the draft that dries out the excess water.

"Honey is awfully good for you, not only internally, but externally. I had a relative whose finger was cut badly, and we put honey on it with a soft bandage. When we took the bandage off next day, the finger was well on the way to being healed."

Ken Bell

MURIEL WILLSON: Bees are ingenious things.

Crystal Gazing

WHEN ECONOMISTS all agree on what can be seen in the crystal ball of business, we shall quietly withdraw to the nearest cosy cave and prepare to wait out a long hard winter. Fortunately, the chances of agreement look pretty slim at the moment, as you can see from the two reports carried on Page 7 of this issue. After reading the two statements of opinion and sending them along to the printer, we turned, out of curiosity, to the financial pages of that evening's newspaper and found these headlines: Speculatives Spurt in Rapid-Fire Trade, Fine Paper Output Boosted by 12 Per Cent, New Housing Sparks 10 Per Cent Increase in Building Contracts, Weekly Wages Climb to New Peak of $58.12, Aluminum Deal Could Expand Kitimat. The present, at least, seemed to be in good shape.

The Rest Period

WHEN YOU put money on the collection plate on Sunday, is it a gift or an instalment on a purchase? Are you giving to the church or buying a small portion of salvation? The question follows logically on the protest made by an official of the Lord's Day Alliance against the proclamation in Toronto of a Jerusalem Week, during which a special effort would be made to sell bonds issued by the State of Israel; the Week included two Sundays, and the official was horrified by the thought that some of the bonds might be sold on the Sabbath.

"It is injurious and a danger to the Sunday privileges of all Canadians to urge selling and buying on that day of the week which is established by law as the national weekly rest day," A. S. McGrath, general secretary of the Alliance, warned. If we assume that attending a church service is part of the 24-hour rest period, there is still the matter of the collection to be disposed of. If the church-goer is indeed making a payment on future grace, the minister who tries to persuade him to spend a bit more is, it seems, rather a dangerous character.

The question is absurd, of course, but so is the incident it springs from—absurd but not amusing, and worth pursuing only to find what murky byways bigotry can follow, away from the bright highway of religious faith.

A Puzzle in Wheat

PEOPLE WHO like to spend a quiet evening working out puzzles in words and figures can have an entertaining hour or two playing around with the solution to the problem of surplus wheat offered by J. H. Blackmore, the Social Credit MP for Lethbridge. Mr. Blackmore would have the Federal Government lend money to wheat farmers to construct storage space for the grain and make an initial payment of 75 cents a bushel to cover the cost of producing the wheat. Up to this point, it's fairly clear, but we will not attempt to paraphrase Mr. Blackmore's neat way of wrapping up his argument. Here it is:

"If a farmer sold wheat in a given bin, say a bushel of it, to the Dominion Government and the Dominion Government paid him the cost of the wheat in full so that the Dominion Government owned the wheat and then the Dominion Government went on paying him storage, such as is now paid to the great elevators, the time would come, if the channels of trade were not cleared, when the farmer would own that wheat again as the result of his storage."

There are several possibilities in that for the mathematically minded; worked out at the rate of one a week there should be enough to carry the puzzler right through the winter and on into early spring. How many times, for instance, could the farmer sell the same wheat to the Government without growing any more? How long would the channels of trade have to be "not cleared" to put the farmer in a position where he could think of slapping garnishees on the sessional indemnities of MPs or of serving dispossess notices on the Senate?

It is good to have a Member like Mr. Blackmore at Ottawa, but one is enough. Even puzzles can get boring if they're overdone.

A Flood of Oratory

ONE OF OUR agents on the West Coast reports that considerable numbers of Vancouver citizens, indomitably intent upon raising the standard of after-dinner and after-lunch oratory, are now devoting their evenings to the study of the art of public speaking. Several courses are under way and there are waiting lists for most of them. Even women have joined a Toastmaster's Club, and more and more people are heaving themselves to their feet, clearing their throats and saying, "Accustomed as I am to public speaking . . ."

Curious about these goings-on, our man attended a meeting of the Board of Trade, at which 20 people were given subjects for impromptu flights of oratory. He was amazed as each one stood up and, without an "er" or an "aw," talked fluently about such things as the Infamy of Police Ghost Cars and Hoodlumism at Universities. The speakers had a stern critic, however: Fred Smith, a veterinarian by profession and a public speaker by inclination. He banged on the table, stamped on the floor and shouted, "How dare you, sir!" when there was a transgression of oratorical law. "Never let me detect a useless sound escaping your lips," he boomed. "Enunciate every syllable. I will not sit here and be tortured by criminals who say 'cmpny' for 'company' or 'memry' for 'memory'. Let your audience have it full in the face. Spit in their eye if you like, but let them have it." Our correspondent did not report what procedure was suggested in case the audience let the speaker have it right back.

Letter from Montreal

Goodwill and a Modest Pride

By Hugh MacLennan

LAST MONTH I spent three days at the Château Frontenac as a guest of the Canadian Westinghouse Company, who sponsored a conference of "representative Canadians to study Canada's future." Most of the speeches at the conference were reported by the press, but reasons of space and perhaps of journalistic tradition made it impossible to reveal the unique nature of this particular gathering.

It was quite an assortment of individuals who went down on the train from Montreal the preceding evening. Had they been in an aircraft, and had another Guay left a bomb to explode en route, more than a few universities, several dozen large corporations, various notable societies and government offices would have lost their chiefs at the same moment.

After they had reached Quebec they spent nearly three days in each others' company, this cross-section of the nation's creative, scientific and managing groups. They breakfasted, lunched, and dined together informally, except for the last evening. After each session they talked and talked, in corridors and private rooms, about the ideas they had developed from the eight papers that were read.

Unlike the usual convention, this one was not comprised of birds of a single feather. Nobody present had anything to sell. Nobody was seeking personal advancement in his career. A common interest brought the men together—Canada's future. Of course there were differences of opinion, but it was amazing to see how much real accord there actually was between the top brass of business, industry, banking, science, engineering, education, radio, motion pictures, literature, journalism, the civil service and the church. All these various men considered Canada in terms of its natural and human resources, of its science, its industry, its education, its culture and the role it is likely to play in world history during the next half-century. Best of all, the guests at this conference were able to meet each others' minds frankly, without any Dale Carnegie kind of calculated courtesies. As a result, they went home with their liking and mutual respect increased many-fold.

In the chair was Dr. G. P. Gilmour, president of McMaster University. Of his performance a businessman remarked, "I always thought college professors were vague and impractical, but in all my life I never saw a chairman so firmly in command, or so good-humored in the way he handled tough situations."

After Douglas White Ambridge had delivered his paper on *The Contribution of Industry*, a professor said, "I never thought I'd live to hear a Canadian industrialist advocate the setting up of subsidiary firms in underprivileged countries. Not to extract the wealth they possess, mind you, but simply to raise their living standards. It's the doctrine Socialists have preached for years, but the trouble was—we never believed the Socialists could produce the results."

It seems to me that this conference proved three things pretty clearly. First, the goodwill in Canada is far greater than many of us realize. Second, it is largely because of this goodwill that we have been spared the hateful mud-slinging and suspicion that McCarthyism has launched into American society. Third, our national unity is now so firmly rooted that from now on we can take it for granted.

D. W. AMBRIDGE: "The Contribution of Industry."

At the formal dinner the British political scientist, Denis Brogan, told us he thought we were too modest for our own good. "There is danger," he said, "that the modest man or the modest nation may be taken at the face value of the words. And a nation like Canada, which, unlike the victim of a celebrated jest, has little to be modest about, might from time to time speak up in meetings, both domestic and international, and with good manners call attention to certain Canadian qualities which the world badly needs."

Certainly the proceedings at the *Canada's Tomorrow* conference lent credence to Mr. Brogan's statement that we are an excessively modest people. Some of the men in the room were intimately connected with a boom which at present is the envy of the world, but nobody boasted, nobody assumed that the boom would last forever, nobody was under any illusion that the great powers would come running to us for advice. Some of the speakers were more insistent on our faults than on our virtues, on our failures than on our successes. But pride was there, just the same. Only it was a Canadian's pride, the kind that is kept carefully in the background lest it be cheapened by public gaze or soiled by public handling.

When the formal speeches were over, I went down the hill with a few others from the conference to a little art gallery to see an exhibition of paintings by a Montreal artist, Jori Smith. The gallery was crowded with *Canadiens* from both Montreal and Quebec; so many were there it was difficult to see the pictures, and Jori's nudes are worth taking a good deal of trouble to see. But I did encounter three fellow-novelists—Gabrielle Roy, Roger Lemelin and André Giroux, all of them with books recently finished or published; and also the poet Anne Hébert and Jean Palardy, an artist himself and one of the ablest motion-picture directors in the country. Seeing us together, Jean-Charles Falardeau, a social scientist of Laval, remarked that this art show was all the proof anyone needed that Canadians and *Canadiens* share each others' interests and products in the arts no less than in industry and sport.

WHENEVER I leave Montreal, even for so short a stretch as four days in the senior city of Quebec, I tend to go into the Ritz for a drink, a meal, a newspaper, a haircut or just to look around. Then I know I am back. For the Ritz is the meeting place of the very new and the very old, of the familiar and the unusual: diplomats on their passage between continents, elderly couples whose ancient mansions have become too heavy a burden, debutantes and young men. Sometimes on Sunday nights at the buffet suppers in the oval room there is even Maurice Duplessis in deep discussion with a Montreal conservative.

So I stopped off at the Ritz on my way up from the station, and my wife met me there for dinner. When I entered the men's room after dinner I saw two strange gentlemen standing side by side. Both were turned out impeccably: dark suits with faint pencil stripes, faces lean, grave and highly colored, their ages somewhat over 50. They gave no indication of knowing that anyone had come in behind them.

The one on the left said, "Don't believe I've seen you since that lamentable show in Cairo. Been out hyah long?"

"Forty-eight hours, approximately. Out long yourself?"

"About 62 hours, p'raps a bit longer."

"Must admit they do one surprisingly well."

"They do, don't they? Must admit one doesn't expect a city like this. Odd, isn't it? I hadn't expected anything, really."

The other man turned gravely. "I suppose one can't ignore them any more, can one?"

They walked gravely out into the cloak room, where they parted company without another word or glance, two Englishmen who had exchanged signals on their separate and inscrutable voyages through a world no longer simple, and no longer theirs.

Mix it in those proportions! 2/3 Gin and 1/3 Votrix

For Manhattans

2/3 Whisky and 1/3 Votrix

VOTRIX VERMOUTH

Sweet or Dry

IMPORTED

ITALIAN TYPE FRENCH TYPE

BRITISH COLUMBIA POWER CORPORATION, LIMITED

DIVIDEND No. 1

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that a dividend of Twenty-five Cents per Share on the Common Shares has been declared for the three months ending 31st December, 1953, payable by cheque dated 15th January, 1954, to all shareholders of record as at the close of business on 31st December, 1953.

By Order of the Board,

J. A. BRICE,
Secretary.

Vancouver, B.C.
26th November, 1953.

SIMPSON'S

Christmas shops

for easy gift selection

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Second and Sixth Floors

Gift Consultant Service
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Simpson's
TORONTO

Will Business Continue To Prosper, Or . . .

SINCE the end of the war we have had a steadily rising level of economic activity from the Maritimes to the Pacific. Gross National Production —an aggregate figure reflecting both prices and real production—has been increasing each year, and with an expanding money supply reflecting relatively high wage patterns, we have reached a pretty high standard of living, in the aggregate. "Can we maintain the currently high levels of economic activity in the months (and years) ahead?" is, therefore, probably a better way of expressing our interest in the future than, "What will happen during 1954?".

Business activity this year indicates that we have begun to separate the inflationary aspects from the real goods and services produced and, therefore, our thinking is more in terms of consumption and demand and less in terms of a sellers' market.

From an aggregate of about $1½ billion pre-war, foreign trade reached a level of about $8.3 billion last year. Trade in 1939 was about 28 per cent of the Gross National Production as compared with 36 per cent last year. This year the aggregate level will be in roughly the same relation. One significant shift in merchandise account this year is that we have reverted to a deficit position. So long as investment opportunities attract an inflow of foreign and particularly United States capital, this situation is satisfactory and indications are that small deficits can be more than met by the current rate of inflow of United States funds. I can see little change in the over-all situation in the months ahead.

Capital investment covers a multiplicity of activities from replacement and additions to machinery through new factories and new utilities to housing. Since the end of the war we have had a surprisingly high rate of annual investment—about 21 per cent of the GNP. This has been in the main in industrial expansion, resource development, and to a lesser extent in housing. There is little question that money spent in this general field is a prudent investment in that it is necessary to save some seed corn for next year's crop, and further, that its multiplier effects are high relative to expenditures for domestic consumption. But bearing in mind the size of the market at home and the competitive uncertainties of foreign markets, it is not unlikely that the limits to capital expansion along some lines have almost been reached. We may, therefore, expect, at best, a shift in emphasis to public utility outlays and to expenditures of a provincial and municipal character, including schools, hospitals, roads, and so on. As far as one can see, aggregate spending of this nature will be below this year's peak of $5.3 billion by some 10 per cent.

Consumer demand is perhaps the most difficult of all factors to appraise because the aggregate is made up of a great many individual decisions to buy. The shortages of a few years ago are, for the time being, an unpleasant memory; the consumer is now in the driver's seat, and we may expect some pretty competitive selling. But income is high and along with this is an almost insatiable desire to improve the standard of living. Old ideas regarding the divinely ordained allocation to a designated position in the vineyard have gone by the board. The desire to share has been superseded by the assumption of the "right" to share, which psychologically has set a new high level of consumer expenditure that is unlikely to fall off in the coming months.

The meshing of military with domestic expenditures has pretty well had its impact, and although preparedness outlays take up about one-half the Federal budget they have not, due to expanding productivity, distorted the over-all pattern as much as was anticipated two years ago. Assuming no further worsening of the international picture and further assuming a continuance of the NATO "stretch out" in preparedness, military outlays in this country can be viewed as doing little more than contributing to (rather than affecting) the generally high levels of employment and production.

Apart from the factors supporting the economy, two further developments deserve attention: first, the increasing use of statistical guides, and, second, the growing diversification of the economy.

It was on balance, unfortunate that the cost of living index became so interwoven in wage discussions; it gave an exaggerated importance to an index number. This, by association, spilled over to other indexes, and when, for example, we note that the index of the volume of production stands at 247.2 (1935-39=100) the question arises, is this desirable or not? No one really knows without a careful examination of its content, but opinions are expressed, based, one suspects, on the grade school approach that, 3 being bigger than 2, *ergo* it is

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These opposing views of the course business is expected to take in coming months were presented by two well-known economists, who, for personal reasons, prefer to remain anonymous.

Wide World

THE VOLUME of Christmas buying is being watched for signs of the course business will take in the months ahead.

. . . Will It Slump?

IN ANY APPRAISAL of the economic outlook we must look backward before we look forward. We must also consider Canada as part of the North American economic unit, because we cannot insulate ourselves from events in the United States.

Looking back to the beginning of the war in Korea, it can be seen how the lagging replacement phase that followed World War II was revitalized not only by the fears of war-created shortages, but also by an expansion in plant and equipment, by the resurgence of armament demand and the frantic efforts of the U.S. Government to stockpile many types of raw materials.

To these potent factors there were added, a little more than a year ago, the "catch-up" boom that followed the long steel strike, and the abandonment of controls on consumer credit. The forces released were of such magnitude that the new administration in the United States was forced to apply the brakes to what was threatening to become a runaway inflation by forcing interest rates upwards.

The forces which have given strength to the boom so far now appear to be weakening rapidly. There is no fear of shortages in either commodities or consumer goods. In fact, the opposite is true.

Thus, we have now entered a phase in which economic developments are keyed to the ephemeral factor of confidence. After the spending spree of the past few years, there are relatively few attainable wants that have not been fulfilled. The higher income groups have completed much of their spending on housing, furnishings, automobiles, television sets and other items. The lower income groups have also satisfied many wants by the process of mortgaging future income. The Federal Reserve Board reported that American consumer credit increased $187 million during October, to bring the outstanding total to a record high of $28,200 million. H. L. Enman, President of the Bank of Nova Scotia, stated in a recent address that consumer credit in Canada had increased by 70 per cent in 15 months; much of this credit has been extended into the higher risk fringe of the lower income groups.

This perhaps explains why savings have increased while credit has expanded so greatly. It also brings us back to the consideration of confidence as the dominant factor in deciding the speed and extent of the correction in business activity which has been slowly getting underway since the beginning of the third quarter of 1953.

That buying has slackened is evident from a glance at several sectors of the economy both here and in the United States. Manufacturers' inventories have continued to rise and now stand at record levels. In the United States, inventories of the durable goods industries now stand well above $25 billion. The upward sweep of inventory figures has been diametrically opposed to the several months old decline in new orders and sales. In Canada, the inventories of manufacturers, on September 30, were valued at $3,992.1 million, an increase of $277.5 million since September 30 of 1952. Unfilled orders followed the trend evident in the United States and were 28 per cent below last year.

With basic producers, such as farmers, base metal miners, lumbermen and others, facing curtailed incomes, it is evident that the urge to buy in these sectors of the economy has been dampened. The effects are apparent in the farm implement industry both here and in the United States, where heavy inventories and shrinking sales

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Simpson's
TORONTO

Will Business Continue To Prosper, Or . . .

Wide World

THE VOLUME of Christmas buying is being watched for signs of the course business will take in the months ahead.

. . . Will It Slump?

SINCE the end of the war we have had a steadily rising level of economic activity from the Maritimes to the Pacific. Gross National Production —an aggregate figure reflecting both prices and real production—has been increasing each year, and with an expanding money supply reflecting relatively high wage patterns, we have reached a pretty high standard of living, in the aggregate. "Can we maintain the currently high levels of economic activity in the months (and years) ahead?" is, therefore, probably a better way of expressing our interest in the future than, "What will happen during 1954?".

Business activity this year indicates that we have begun to separate the inflationary aspects from the real goods and services produced and, therefore, our thinking is more in terms of consumption and demand and less in terms of a sellers' market.

From an aggregate of about $1½ billion pre-war, foreign trade reached a level of about $8.3 billion last year. Trade in 1939 was about 28 per cent of the Gross National Production as compared with 36 per cent last year. This year the aggregate level will be in roughly the same relation. One significant shift in merchandise account this year is that we have reverted to a deficit position. So long as investment opportunities attract an inflow of foreign and particularly United States capital, this situation is satisfactory and indications are that small deficits can be more than met by the current rate of inflow of United States funds. I can see little change in the over-all situation in the months ahead.

Capital investment covers a multiplicity of activities from replacement and additions to machinery through new factories and new utilities to housing. Since the end of the war we have had a surprisingly high rate of annual investment—about 21 per cent of the GNP. This has been in the main in industrial expansion, resource development, and to a lesser extent in housing. There is little question that money spent in this general field is a prudent investment in that it is necessary to save some seed corn for next year's crop, and further, that its multiplier effects are high relative to expenditures for domestic consumption. But bearing in mind the size of the market at home and the competitive uncertainties of foreign markets, it is not unlikely that the limits to capital expansion along some lines have almost been reached. We may, therefore, expect, at best, a shift in emphasis to public utility outlays and to expenditures of a provincial and municipal character, including schools, hospitals, roads, and so on. As far as one can see, aggregate spending of this nature will be below this year's peak of $5.3 billion by some 10 per cent.

Consumer demand is perhaps the most difficult of all factors to appraise because the aggregate is made up of a great many individual decisions to buy. The shortages of a few years ago are, for the time being, an unpleasant memory; the consumer is now in the driver's seat, and we may expect some pretty competitive selling. But income is high and along with this is an almost insatiable desire to improve the standard of living. Old ideas regarding the divinely ordained allocation to a designated position in the vineyard have gone by the board. The desire to share has been superseded by the assumption of the "right" to share, which psychologically has set a new high level of consumer expenditure that is unlikely to fall off in the coming months.

The meshing of military with domestic expenditures has pretty well had its impact, and although preparedness outlays take up about one-half the Federal budget they have not, due to expanding productivity, distorted the over-all pattern as much as was anticipated two years ago. Assuming no further worsening of the international picture and further assuming a continuance of the NATO "stretch out" in preparedness, military outlays in this country can be viewed as doing little more than contributing to (rather than affecting) the generally high levels of employment and production.

Apart from the factors supporting the economy, two further developments deserve attention: first, the increasing use of statistical guides, and, second, the growing diversification of the economy.

It was on balance, unfortunate that the cost of living index became so interwoven in wage discussions; it gave an exaggerated importance to an index number. This, by association, spilled over to other indexes, and when, for example, we note that the index of the volume of production stands at 247.2 (1935-39=100) the question arises, is this desirable or not? No one really knows without a careful examination of its content, but opinions are expressed, based, one suspects, on the grade school approach that, 3 being bigger than 2, *ergo* it is

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These opposing views of the course business is expected to take in coming months were presented by two well-known economists, who, for personal reasons, prefer to remain anonymous.

ON IN ANY APPRAISAL of the economic outlook we must look backward before we look forward. We must also consider Canada as part of the North American economic unit, because we cannot insulate ourselves from events in the United States.

Looking back to the beginning of the war in Korea, it can be seen how the lagging replacement phase that followed World War II was revitalized not only by the fears of war-created shortages, but also by an expansion in plant and equipment, by the resurgence of armament demand and the frantic efforts of the U.S. Government to stockpile many types of raw materials.

To these potent factors there were added, a little more than a year ago, the "catch-up" boom that followed the long steel strike, and the abandonment of controls on consumer credit. The forces released were of such magnitude that the new administration in the United States was forced to apply the brakes to what was threatening to become a runaway inflation by forcing interest rates upwards.

The forces which have given strength to the boom so far now appear to be weakening rapidly. There is no fear of shortages in either commodities or consumer goods. In fact, the opposite is true.

Thus, we have now entered a phase in which economic developments are keyed to the ephemeral factor of confidence. After the spending spree of the past few years, there are relatively few attainable wants that have not been fulfilled. The higher income groups have completed much of their spending on housing, furnishings, automobiles, television sets and other items. The lower income groups have also satisfied many wants by the process of mortgaging future income. The Federal Reserve Board reported that American consumer credit increased $187 million during October, to bring the outstanding total to a record high of $28,200 million. H. L. Enman, President of the Bank of Nova Scotia, stated in a recent address that consumer credit in Canada had increased by 70 per cent in 15 months; much of this credit has been extended into the higher risk fringe of the lower income groups.

This perhaps explains why savings have increased while credit has expanded so greatly. It also brings us back to the consideration of confidence as the dominant factor in deciding the speed and extent of the correction in business activity which has been slowly getting underway since the beginning of the third quarter of 1953.

That buying has slackened is evident from a glance at several sectors of the economy both here and in the United States. Manufacturers' inventories have continued to rise and now stand at record levels. In the United States, inventories of the durable goods industries now stand well above $25 billion. The upward sweep of inventory figures has been diametrically opposed to the several months old decline in new orders and sales. In Canada, the inventories of manufacturers, on September 30, were valued at $3,992.1 million, an increase of $277.5 million since September 30 of 1952. Unfilled orders followed the trend evident in the United States and were 28 per cent below last year.

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Prosperity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

better. Gross National Production is another type of indicator useful in knowledgeable hands, yet capable of giving an altogether unreal view.

A national aggregate does not show regional disparities in economic activity, nor does it show the relative position of industries, and only coincidentally can industry relate its position to movements of GNP. For example, GNP for the year is estimated to be higher than 1952 by some one billion dollars. Are the farmers better off this year than last year? This kind of examination, brief though it may be, leads to the suggestion that business must look at a range of activity rather than a point in a series.

Resource development and attendant industrial expansion, together with the marked increase in the kinds of domestic production, have in my opinion made us less vulnerable to weaknesses in the market for specific products. We are no longer a wheat economy. This is not to suggest that our major product is unimportant; rather it is to suggest that the softening of one market does not bring with it the seeds of collapse. Furthermore, new resources and new industries have served to diversify the expanded labor force and as a result the problem of unemployment does not loom as large as it did in the pre-war period. Moreover, the increase in population arising from immigration and the high rate at which new families have been formed have expanded the domestic market tremendousiy.

All these factors indicate signs of continuing strength. Price movements and other indexes of business and industrial behavior remain to be considered. In my view, "prosperity" in the final analysis is a state of mind even more than an abundance of material goods. If, therefore, output in a relatively healthy industry drops to 90 per cent of rated capacity, or the cost of living index drops five points, or the index of industrial activity drops eight per cent during the year, or for that matter GNP stays at or about present levels, then I would conclude that we would be enjoying a continued period of relative "prosperity." This, I suggest, will be the case.

Recession

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

have forced a reduction in employment in equipment plants.

In the ebb and flow of the economic tides, recessive forces are first felt by the producers of raw materials, then by the transportation industry, the manufacturing industry and finally at the retail and service trade levels. If we are correct in our analysis, then the North American economy has entered the third stage, where pressure is beginning to be felt upon manufacturing. How much this will affect retail trade will soon be shown by the figures for the pre-Christmas volume of buying, which could easily be lower than last year's.

With some $80 billion of merchandise in the economic pipelines pressing for sale at this time, the volume of sales recorded in the U.S. will have a very definite effect upon future orders at every level of production.

Let us now return to the broad economic picture and especially key monetary policies that will be followed by the United States Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board there. There is a common idea which has been well publicized by the advocates of a managed economy, that governments can and will do something in the event of an economic decline. This conveniently ignores the fact that the American Government is even now wrestling with a funded debt that is close to the statutory ceiling of $275 billion. To maintain the defence program and continue the buying of surplus farm commodities, the Secretary of the Treasury must go to Congress in January for permission to increase the limit of the public debt.

Should a moderate decline in business activity (of say 20 per cent) occur, the most injured party would be the tax collector. The effect would be much more pronounced in the United States than in Canada; the bulk of the U.S. tax collections are taken from corporate and personal income tax, while in Canada personal and corporate taxes are supplemented much more by sales and excise taxes.

If the U.S. Government entered the money market for many more billions to spend, in addition to the billions required for refunding the existing debt, it would have the effect of increasing interest rates at a time when the Federal Reserve would want to do just the opposite. However, as was noted previously, interest rates are a much more effective means of slowing an economy than speeding it up. To make money available for borrowing is not enough. There must be a reason, a profitable one, for borrowing it.

At the present, the economic barometer appears to be moving down and we expect that the trend will be followed by production and public borrowing and spending, at least until next Fall.

The most effective indicator will be the volume of retail sales. Here the weakness or strength of the factor of confidence will be displayed in a form that can be assessed. If sales lag behind last year's, the downward trend of the "rolling readjustment" will accelerate.

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BIRKS
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Foreign Affairs

Can the Big Four Log Jam Be Broken?

THE BIG THREE have met for the first time since the death of Stalin; the Big Four are to meet for the first time since the lifting of the Berlin Blockade. Dare we hope that diplomacy is on the move again, that the log jam is being loosened, the cold war thawing out a bit?

Hope will not ride so high as it did when, in the midst of a series of liberalizing moves in Soviet Russia, Sir Winston Churchill called for a meeting "on the highest level." (It is quite another question whether such hopes should ever be reposed on a Big Four meeting, after the disastrous, "s l a p - d a s h" settlements achieved by the wartime meetings of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin.) Yet there has been a number of proposals made since then which the foreign ministers could usefully discuss, if they have a mind to do so.

They might for example, discuss Sir Winston's suggestion of an Eastern Locarno, or Chancellor Adenauer's proposal for a non-aggression pact embracing the East, the West and the European Army. There is Secretary of State Dulles's recognition that Russia, too, is looking for security. There is a suggestion, from both German and French quarters, that this could best be provided by neutralizing Germany.

All of these proposals, brought forward in the Western search for a meeting ground with Russia—if only to prove all over again that such a meeting must be fruitless and that the only thing to do is get on with the European Army—appeared to fall on barren ground. The feeling expressed in the serious European Press after the completely negative Russian note of November 3 was that there was nothing to look forward to but a kind of diplomatic trench warfare for the next couple of years or so.

Now the Soviets have suddenly abandoned all the conditions which they laid down so recently, namely: that the meeting should include China as well as the Big Four; and that we must first give up our plans for a European Army, and NATO defence of Western Europe. The Russians now agree to a Big Four meeting, without any conditions. What's up?

There has been a number of theories advanced, and it does credit to our political education of the past few years that no one suggests that the Soviets have changed their policy or abandoned their aims. It is merely a change of tactics, and it probably was brought on by the French parliamentary debate on the European Army and the renewed British proposal for a Big Three meeting at Bermuda, to close the Western ranks.

If you read the Soviet notes of recent months or the monitored reports of Radio Moscow, you cannot but be convinced that the two chief aims of Soviet policy in the West are the prevention of the rearmament of Germany, within a European Army or in any other way associated with the West, and the "relaxation of tension." The latter is the real innovation in Russian policy introduced by the heirs of Stalin. It was urged in the following engaging manner by Malenkov himself, last August 8: "If today, in conditions of tension in international relations, the North Atlantic bloc is rent by internal strife and contradictions, the lessening of this tension may lead to its disintegration."

Thinking back to the furious Anglo-American exchanges of last spring, it is not surprising that Malenkov should believe this. That was the time when Attlee was accused of "attacking the American Constitution" and Knowland threatened to take the U.S. out of the UN if the British succeeded in bringing Red China in. It was the time of the prolonged French political crisis, of the growing distaste of America's allies for McCarthyism and the growing disdain shown by some American politicians for the value being returned on the American investment in these allies.

It is a regrettable fact that there has been almost no inspiration, initiative or leadership on our side for the past year and a half—since the approach of the American political conventions in the early summer of 1952. The only new idea which has been advanced, the Dulles policy of liberation of the satellite peoples and the non-Russian peoples of the Soviet Union, a policy which was to carry us over onto the offensive in the cold war, has been wholly rejected by Western Europe and partially by the United States and Canada.

Eisenhower and Dulles have given no other lead, and in their silence and apparent indecision the voice of America has too often been the yap-

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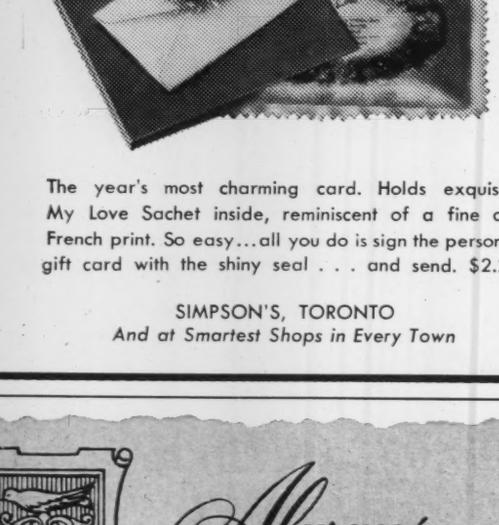

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STETSON HATS

ping of McCarthy, impugning the faith and worth of the allies of the United States. This, it may be hoped, reached its climax a fortnight ago, when McCarthy demanded that the U.S. Government force the British to halt the "blood trade" which they are carrying on with Communist China, an enemy of the United States.

Though this attitude, as Dulles said, "struck at the very heart of the U.S. policy of building alliances" *not a single Republican legislator took issue with McCarthy in the week that followed.* It was clearly up to Eisenhower, unless he was to find a new Secretary of State and a new foreign policy, to take McCarthy in hand. Having decided, as it seems he has, to do this, the President surely must abandon the effort to hold every Republican vote behind his policies, and come to depend instead, as Truman did, on a bipartisan majority.

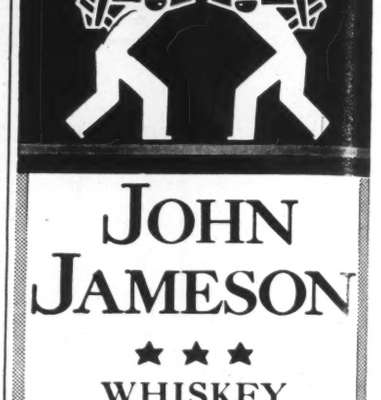
Nevertheless, there is little indication that President Eisenhower took any positive ideas to Bermuda capable of taking up the slack in the Western alliance caused by the Soviet policy of "relaxation of tension", by the passing of the bogeyman Stalin, and by the outbreak of unrest in the Soviet satellites.

Fear of a new war is fading in Europe, while fatalism is growing over what could be done to defend Europe if an atomic war did come. There is a profound weariness from 40 years of wars and threats of war; and the burden of rearmament seems almost insupportable in face of all the social needs and domestic political problems. As a perfect excuse for stalling, the Europeans have the renewed American talk about taking U.S. troops out of Europe, as part of a recasting of strategy for the atomic age.

This is, for the Soviets, much too attractive a development for them to agree to any real European settlement at the present time. For such a settlement, they would have to take the Red Army home, which would mean a turnover in all the satellite states and the possibility that all of these would join an enlarged, anti-Soviet European Union. For such a settlement, we would have to undertake not to promote a European Army or the rearmament of Germany in any form, would have to take the British, American and Canadian troops home from Europe, and give up our bases there.

We simply cannot abandon our defensive measures until it is clear that the Soviets have abandoned their expansive ambitions. The Soviets are unlikely to give these up so long as Britain and the United States are bitterly divided on Far Eastern policy, and France, in growing weakness, holds up the European Army and talks more and more of dropping the burden of Indo-China. Why should the Russians hurry into a settlement? They have lots of time. Their whole use of the four-power conference, it will be found, will be to gain time on German rearmament, and promote bad feeling over this issue between France and the U.S.

WILLSON WOODSIDE



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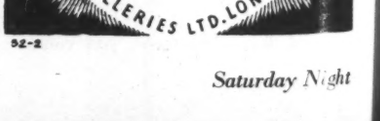

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The Public Prints

St. John's Telegram: There are 102 seats in the Canadian Senate, and it would not be fair to suggest that all of them are filled by men who purchased them on a cold cash basis. The recognized qualification for entrance to the Senate is outstanding service to the party in power. Such outstanding service may well be a large contribution to party funds. But it may well be service of another nature. In some cases it may merely consist of removing your unwanted presence from other political seats.

Judge H. R. Medina in the Atlantic Monthly: What happens to a man when he dons the black robe and takes his place upon the bench? I can tell you. Some subtle force takes possession of his soul and whispers continually in his ear the command that he make very sure that his every judgment and his every ruling be just and right. To all appearances he is the same man, but some new and sacred sense of responsibility makes itself felt. The thirst for victory, the love of combat—gradually these fade away, and in their place comes a profound concern lest some emotional bias or hidden prejudice sway him from the . . . just conclusion.

The Printed Word: Yet the instinctive distrust of highbrows may have a sound basis. The lowbrow dislikes what he calls phoniness, and he suspects that there may be a good deal of that quality in his highbrow acquaintances. He may wrong them, but it is obvious that pure enjoyment of the arts is not the only reason for the patronage accorded artists and artistic productions. It is fortunate for the artists and their families that art has become socially respectable and worthy of financial support, but that fact in itself tends to exclude the lowbrow from participation in cultural self-improvement. Suggest that he has a duty to improve himself, and he may fairly point to some products of the Canadian cultural renaissance, accompanying his gesture with a raspberry.

While art may attract the insincere, sports are usually a touchstone of sincerity. Few sit on the windswept bleachers at an autumn football game who are not enthusiasts for it. Watching hockey is more comfortable, but not without its inconvenience, and the hundreds of Canadian amateur players would receive salaries much lower than they now do if people were not sincerely interested in the game.

Ottawa Journal: We stand unconvinced that people should cheerfully buy bad books or books of dubious worth merely because they are written by fellow-countrymen, or that editors should buy at high prices second-rate work written by Canadians when they could purchase first-rate work from non-Canadians . . . Few of us carry nationalism to the point of letting it stand in the way of getting the best possible value for our money.

JAMES STEWART, C.B.E., PRESIDENT,
addressing the 87th Annual Meeting of The Canadian Bank of Commerce, said in part :

Despite prevailing tensions, brought about by international uncertainties, and by a shift from a sellers' to a buyers' market in almost all business, Canada has been able during the year either to maintain or to increase production in the main fields of commercial and industrial activity. This undoubtedly reflects the underlying strengths in the economy that have been manifest since war's end. Now many evidences of a more competitive market are becoming apparent, and signs are not wanting to indicate a continuance, if not an intensification, of this condition in the immediate future with all that this implies in the matter of profit margins.

Inflation — domestic and international — has served, among other things, to hide or distort cost factors, and pricing in many instances has been unduly influenced by the anticipation of a continuing upward inflationary spiral. For the time being, and for the foreseeable future, the inflationary pressures have been contained, and costs, and prices, will play their proper role in the market-place.

Another sign of strength is to be found in the continuing intensity of consumer demand. One conclusion that is becoming evident is that we are moving toward a higher domestic consumption pattern — a desirable objective provided that demand is not based on an excessive use of consumer credit. Under an emerging competition, which undoubtedly will highlight the sovereignty of the consumer, pricing becomes the most important task in maintaining demand, and consequently employment.

The post-war expansion of plant capacity and the creation of new industrial and commercial enterprise has been accompanied by some changes in capital structures. At the outbreak of war in 1939 the over-all relationship of equity to debt in industrial and commercial enterprise was about two to one. The recent general trend does suggest that at times of high taxes and low interest rates such as we have been experiencing over the past few years, business is seriously tempted by the apparent advantage of obtaining needed working capital by way of debt rather than by obtaining equity money.

The shortage of dollars continues to plague many potential customers of Canadian goods and services. This in part explains the many restrictions on imports and on exchange that confront exporters on this continent. More serious for Canadian producers of exportable commodities is the fact that countries functioning under restrictive programmes are buyers' not sellers' markets, and price is an important consideration.

One way to meet trade competition is through the most effective use of machinery and skills and quality. We cannot successfully foist onto foreign markets high-cost, high-wage products under competitive conditions.

As we look to the months ahead I would venture to suggest that over-all consumer demands will continue high.

In the non-durable goods' field, demand is buoyant and retail sales indicate a relatively stable outlook. Demand in this area is difficult to assess because attitudes and fancies are subject to abrupt changes, but there is nothing in the present situation to warrant the belief that any noticeable falling off in demand is ahead of us though there well may be a levelling off of the peaks recorded in past months.

In the durable goods' field there are signs of some slackening in demand and as a consequence inventory positions in some lines may require adjustment in the coming months. However, adjustment from extraordinarily high peaks is far different from a drying-up of demand, and bearing in mind replacements and new family formation the demand should remain firm if prices are adjusted accordingly.

In both the durable and non-durable consumer goods' fields increasing competition for the consumer's dollar means among other things that price will play an increasingly important role in moving goods from the producer to the ultimate consumer. This is a problem that will have to be attacked by every one in business.

Capital spending, as I already have remarked, may be off somewhat from this year's peak but is likely to continue at a relatively high level.

This year farm income declined from the very high levels of 1951 and 1952, and having regard for world agricultural prices and the generally abundant domestic agricultural picture there is little ground for anticipating a return to the recently established peak. However, the level of farm income this year is relatively high and should continue so for the crop year ahead.

We must be prepared for uneven activity both regionally and in the industrial operations that make up the economy. If my assumption of the business climate for the months to come is correct then business for the first time in some years will acquire a fuller appreciation of the relationship of costs to selling prices. This relationship has been obscured in the immediate past by reason of rising dollar volume which has tended to give an unrealistic view of profits.

In the course of these remarks I have repeatedly referred to increasing competition, not as a counsel of pessimism, but as a cautionary note. We *must* become increasingly aware of the implications of generally high costs of production and the difficulties emanating from them in competitive markets both at home and abroad.

NEIL J. McKINNON, GENERAL MANAGER,
after reviewing the balance sheet, highlights of which are summarized below, said in part :

The past year has seen business activity, with the exception of certain areas, at record levels. It has been marked by increasingly competitive conditions and this has been attended by some slowing down in the turnover of inventories as well as in the payment of trade accounts. These developments are associated normally with a heightening of a competitive environment and they do not give reason for concern although, of course, good business management must always be alert to corrections which become necessary from time to time.

A year ago your attention was drawn to the rapid rise in consumer credit taking place at that time. The aggregate volume has shown a continued increase this year but in recent months at a noticeably lessening rate. It may be that the sharply increasing trend formerly observed is now moving to a plateau and while such a development would, of course, have an effect on retail sales, it is perhaps a rather healthful condition under present circumstances as it suggests an easier relation of this type of credit to disposable incomes.

Two important measures of legislation have been announced by the Government which will be brought before Parliament during the current session. One of these will be legislation under which it is proposed that the banks be placed in a similar position to the insurance, loan and trust companies and other institutions as lenders under a plan for long-term mortgage loans for residential construction, to be insured by the Federal Government. The terms of this legislation when available will be studied with care and consideration for the interests of the country as well as for good banking principles both of which in the final analysis are inseparable.

The decennial revision of "An Act respecting Banks and Banking" known familiarly as The Bank Act will also be undertaken by Parliament. This Act of Parliament is the source of charters for the banks and its review affords an opportunity to examine the functions, performance and scope of operations of the banks in relation to changes and developments in the Canadian economy and financial structure during the past ten years and to amend or alter the terms of the Act in keeping with the continued adaptation of banking practice in the best interests of the nation as a whole. The review is accordingly welcomed by the banking system as an aid to maintaining at a high level its facilities for service in the national interest.

ANNUAL STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS
As at 31st October, 1953

Assets	$1,911,815,744
Securities	692,112,965
Total Loans	820,327,178
Total Deposits	1,798,447,204
Reserve Fund	38,000,000
Capital	30,000,000
Net Profits	5,789,242

The Canadian Bank of Commerce

Ottawa Letter

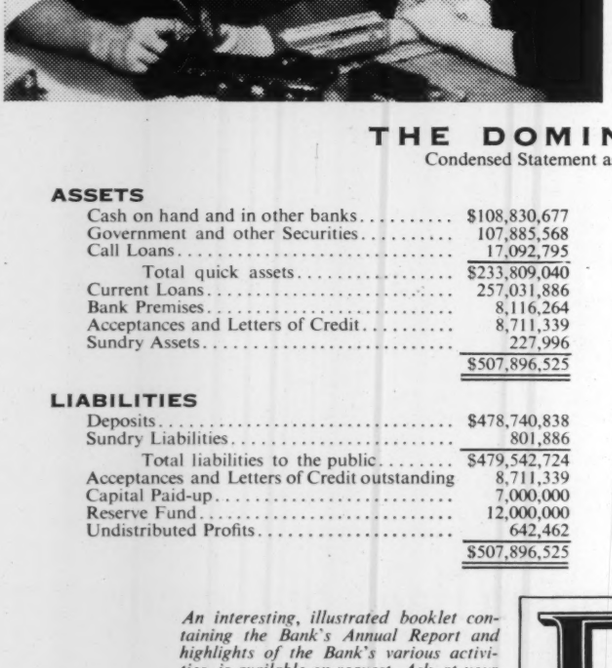
Windy Debate Delays Legislation

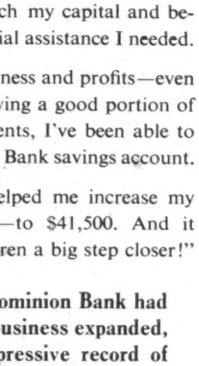
THE DEBATE on the Address is buried once more in oblivion in the files of *Hansard*, and it is hard to discern how the country derived any profit commensurate with the expenditure of nearly three weeks time upon it. Again the Christmas recess is approaching and no legislation of major importance has been submitted to Parliament. So it is to be fervently hoped that, in the projected reform of the procedure of the House of Commons, first place will be given to the imposition of a time limit of a few days on the debate on the Address, as has been the practice at Westminster for many years.

Each of the parties in opposition went through the usual motion of moving amendments which embodied some of their convictions and criticisms of Ministerial policies, only to have them voted down by large majorities. The vote on the amendment of the Social Credit party revealed that, while Mr. Drew personally opposed it, he gave Mr. Diefenbaker and 10 more of his followers, who were attracted by its advocacy of the acceptance of sterling in payment for Canadian exports, complete freedom to vote for it. There was no parallel relaxation of the stern discipline of the Liberal party, and those Liberal members who had favored the acceptance of sterling meekly voted against the proposal.

Fewer members of the Cabinet than usual saw fit to intervene in the debate. Mr. Howe is not only the ablest administrator of the Cabinet, but he is also its professional optimist. His review of the national economy in the debate on the Address is now a hardy annual and he was in his jauntiest mood when he delivered this year's edition. He proclaimed his pride that his optimistic predictions about the country's economic fortunes in previous reviews had been abundantly justified by the progressive expansion of our economic activities. He admitted the existence of soft spots in the national economy, but he would only include in his list the industries producing textiles, farm implements and electrical appliances. He did not think it worth while to refer to the difficulties of the fishermen, the lumbermen

The Hendersons had a good year in 1953!





"A year of real progress for me and my family... 1953! Early in the year, I decided to go ahead with plans for expanding my garage business. But the job required a substantial outlay —more than I had available. So I talked it over with Pete Bingham, manager of our Dominion Bank Branch. He showed me ways to stretch my capital and between us we decided how much financial assistance I needed.

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"Yes, 1953 *was* a good year! It helped me increase my assets—business, savings and so on—to $41,500. And it brought security for my wife and children a big step closer!"

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THE DOMINION BANK

Condensed Statement as at October 31st, 1953

ASSETS

Cash on hand and in other banks	$108,830,677
Government and other Securities	107,885,568
Call Loans	17,092,795
Total quick assets	$233,809,040
Current Loans	257,031,886
Bank Premises	8,116,264
Acceptances and Letters of Credit	8,711,339
Sundry Assets	227,996
	$507,896,525

LIABILITIES

Deposits	$478,740,838
Sundry Liabilities	801,886
Total liabilities to the public	$479,542,724
Acceptances and Letters of Credit outstanding	8,711,339
Capital Paid-up	7,000,000
Reserve Fund	12,000,000
Undistributed Profits	642,462
	$507,896,525

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Year Ended October 31st, 1953

Profit after making appropriations to Contingency Reserves	$ 3,443,710
Less: Depreciation	620,251
Income Taxes	1,430,000
Net Profit	$ 1,393,459
Less: Dividends	910,000
Profit & Loss carried forward	$ 483,459
Balance of Profit & Loss, October 31st, 1952	1,159,003
	$ 1,642,462
Less: Transfer to reserve fund	1,000,000
Balance of Profit & Loss, October 31st, 1953	$ 642,462

ROBERT RAE, President — A. C. ASHFORTH, General Manager

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THE DOMINION BANK

82 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CANADIAN PEOPLE

53-34

and the farmers, which had been eloquently described by their spokesmen during the debate. Foreign trade was not as satisfactory as he could have wished, and he glossed lightly over the ominous shrinkage in exports. But the national income had reached a record height, the spending power of the public was increasing steadily, there were indications that the volume of capital investment in 1954 would not be seriously curtailed, and he thought that all the omens pointed to the continuance of a high level of prosperity in 1954. Opposition members who followed him in the debate refused to share his blithe confidence.

Mr. Claxton did his best to prove that his stewardship of national defence had been wise and efficient. Gordon Churchill (PC, Winnipeg South Centre) disagreed with him in an excellent speech, and maintained that the Canadian Army was seriously deficient in tanks and armored carriers. Little attention was paid to international affairs during the debate, but J. M. Macdonnell (PC, Toronto Greenwood) made a useful contribution to it by reminding the House of the tragic history of the League of Nations and urging that the Government bestir itself to assure that the United Nations did not lapse into a similar condition of helpless debility.

The Prime Minister had some difficulty persuading Mr. Abbott to retain the Ministry of Finance until the Bank Act was revised and the latter has now announced in explicit words that the Budget, which he is now preparing, will be his last. The Ministry of Finance has been traditionally regarded as the second most important office in the Cabinet and its occupants have always had compelling reasons for abandoning it. One theory in Ottawa is that Mr. Abbott realizes that the public regards him (quite unfairly, as it is the responsibility of the whole Cabinet) as the chief author of their tax burdens, and that, if he could escape from this odium, his chances of succeeding Mr. St. Laurent as leader of the Liberal party would be greatly improved. On the other hand, some of his friends maintain that he is tired of politics, has no aspirations for the leadership and is anxious, before it is too late, to repair his own financial fortunes, which have suffered from his absorption in politics since 1940.

Undoubtedly Mr. Abbott could earn a large income as a lawyer in Montreal, and his return to active practice would delight the other partners in his firm; as long as he is Minister of Finance, they are debarred from handling any cases involving relations with the Federal Government. But there is also a possibility that he might prefer the security of some high judicial office and, if he wanted it, it could not be denied him.

The Government is now credited with the intention, not of undertaking immediately a drastic reform of the Senate, but of making some move to remedy an unwholesome situation which is rapidly destroying its authority and prestige. Today, in a house of 102 members, there are 81 Liberals, 8 Conservatives and 13 vacant seats. But half of the small Conservative rump is elderly invalids, whose attendance is fitful, and the opposition has for many years been incapable of sustaining a decent debate against the overwhelming Liberal majority. The situation has been saved from becoming completely farcical by the independent line persistently taken by a group of influential Liberal Senators.

Senator Lambert recently made an illuminating exposé of the disgraceful pollution of the River Ottawa in the vicinity of the capital. He pointed out that the Federal District Commission will have spent at the close of the present fiscal year $28 million of national funds on the beautifying of the capital and the creation of a magnificent park in its northern hinterland, the Gatineau country. But nothing has been done to halt the steady inflow of foul sewage into the Ottawa River from 20 separate outlets in the metropolitan area, which includes Hull.

As the result of this culpable apathy, the Ottawa River east of the Chaudière Falls has many of the earmarks of a huge sewer. Senator Lambert did well to ask what was the use of beautifying the capital, when the foul condition of the noble river, which ought to be one of its glories, is a byword.

The performance of such services to the public at intervals in the Senate, however, will not revive its now enfeebled authority until there is a more equitable balance in its personnel.

JOHN A. STEVENSON

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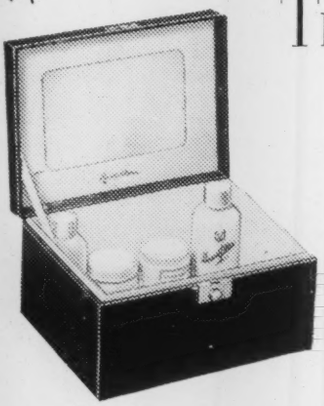

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Lighter Side

Man of Faith

FROM THE AGE of sixteen—he was approaching forty-one—Mr. George Evans had been a convinced rationalist. He was always ready to defend his position, shifting his argument as need rose about one or the other of the rationalist's fixed points: (a) that anything can be explained, and (b) that nothing had been proved.

This made it possible for him to demolish in two swoops any current theory or belief. He could handle any topic that came up, from flying saucers (red corpuscles on the retina, mass hallucination, etc.) to the case of Miss Christine Jorgensen (how do you *know* she hasn't always been Miss?). This gave him a great deal of satisfaction, but made him a little irritable in company. For Mr. Evans brought to disbelief a fervor that few believers attach to faith.

The George DuPre case, for instance, had been one of his particular triumphs, for the final exposure of The Man who Wouldn't Talk vindicated Mr. Evans's disbelief not only in George DuPre, but in popular journalism and even in the Creator whose interests Mr. DuPre had rather disarmingly claimed to serve in spreading the story.

Eventually, Mr. Evans hoped, the Christmas myth would be as finally dislodged from public belief as the George DuPre story. In the meantime, he had to admit, it continued to flourish and he could scarcely have said which irritated him most, the wild make-believe or the jubilant commercialism of the Christmas season. To make things worse he was suffering from toothache, and was now on his way to Dr. Pettingil's for an extraction.

Scowling unhappily, he pushed his way through the Christmas shopping crowds to the corner. He reached it and was waiting for the light to change when he caught a glimpse of Santa Claus, who was leaning against the Woolworth doorway idly jingling reindeer bells.

Mr. Evans blamed his subsequent behavior on the fact that his tooth at that moment gave a sharp jump. Without an instant's hesitation, he walked over and pulled Santa Claus's whiskers.

Nothing happened. The whiskers were real. "Fooled you," Santa Claus said.

Mr. Evans stared at Santa Claus who stared back. Then he leaned forward and prodded the saint in the middle. "Fooled you again," Santa Claus said.

He returned indignantly to the corner. It seemed to him peculiarly outrageous that the old fraud should turn up with real whiskers and an indubitable waist expansion. He turned to scowl at Santa Claus and found he had vanished. In his place was a Salvation Army officer.

Mr. Evans blinked. Then he went up to her. "Where did Santa Claus go?" he demanded.

"Santa Claus?" she asked. "I've been right here for, let's see, over an hour. Are you sure it was this corner?"

"Of course it was this corner," he said. There was the window showing an orchestra of little wax angels playing harps. There was Woolworth's. These were facts. Was Santa Claus a fact? Was he, George Evans? "Good God!" Mr. Evans said, completely shaken.

The Salvation Army officer stared at him in alarm. Then she turned her back and began shaking her tambourine as if she were summoning help. Mr. Evans escaped and went across the road, and presently found himself, still much confused, in Dr. Pettingil's waiting room.

It was undoubtedly an hallucination, he reflected. Hallucinations were something he had always attributed to other people and while it was painful to have to pin one on himself, he was not a man to evade the fact. The vision of Santa Claus had been pure hallucination, brought on by the violence of his toothache.

On the other hand, he reflected, beginning to recover himself, it might have been the Salvation Officer who had an hallucination. Religious types of that sort nearly always displayed hysterical symptoms.

This was undoubtedly the explanation. Mr. Evans settled down and, picking up a news magazine, turned to the Science Section.

The lead article was entitled "Piltdown Man Exposed", and Mr. Evans read it through to the end with growing pleasure. The Piltdown men went back five hundred thousand years, a good deal further than Santa Claus, but the scientists had caught up with him at last. Give them a little time and they would catch up with Santa Claus and give him the Piltdown treatment. The notion of putting the Christmas Saint through a fluorine analysis followed by a laboratory test for artificial coloring gave him so much enjoyment that he quite forgot his toothache.

"Ready, Mr. Evans," said the dental nurse, putting her head in the door. And Mr. Evans, his faith restored and his mind at peace, skipped gaily in to have his tooth extracted.

MARY LOWREY ROSS

The Backward Glance

Five Years Ago This Week

SATURDAY NIGHT for Dec. 18, 1948 told, under the heading "The Last Act of Canadian Confederation," of the joining of Newfoundland to Canada, 84 years after the first negotiations. Featured on the cover page was a photograph of a portion of the globe taken from a rocket zooming 57 miles above the earth. The caption under the picture said, "Curvature of the earth is plainly seen," but when we tried to check this from the photograph, which was made on a cant that even we have never approached with our Brownie, all we got was curvature of the spine from twisting our curving head. Until we are offered more proof than this, we will go on believing that the earth is flat, and that the sun revolves around it once every twenty-four hours.

On the "Dear Mr. Editor" page were several letters that excited our interest. The first one was from a Home Economics teacher who challenged a SATURDAY NIGHT article which, in turn, had challenged the teaching of Home Economics. The writer said, "A questionnaire recently sent to over one hundred Home Economics graduates of a Toronto vocational school revealed that 38 per cent of them had married and were grateful and enthusiastic about their school training in Home Economics." Having been a vociferous antagonist of Home Economics teachers for several years, and being one who believes that the best wives are home-trained and learn their cooking on their mothers' kitchen stoves, we would like to know what happened to the 62 per cent who are not married. Are they frying sausages over room-in-house burners, or have they all gone into the teaching of Home Economics?

Another letter blasted the King of Egypt and the Shah of Iran for having thrown over their former wives because these ladies could not present them with a male heir. The writer, a doctor, said, " . . . it is the cell of the male parent that determines the sex of the offspring . . . I trust that the women of the world will raise a globe-encircling haw-haw at the medieval panjandrums who are aping the late, but not at all lamented, Henry VIII."

Another writer wondered how SATURDAY NIGHT could have been so naive as to print an article by Dr. Feasey on the inability of Ontario Hydro to fulfil its obligations under George Drew. He compared the running of a public utility such as Hydro under an opponent of public utilities such as Drew to the running of the Canadian Army in a war with Soviet Russia under the leadership of Tim Buck. Come to think of it, 1948 was the year of the blackouts, when the city of Toronto, among others, took on a Stygian gloom, lit by the feeble light of candles, and the Neon sign, that mark of the Twentieth Century, was as hard to find as an oil lamp is in 1953.

Under the heading, "The Brain Teaser Contest," B. K. Sandwell, under his pseudonym of "Lucy Van Gogh," discussed crossword puzzles, especially those which appeared, and still do, in SATURDAY NIGHT, compiled by Louis and Dorothy Crerar. The popularity of this department was amply illustrated by the number of replies received in answer to the "Brain Teaser" which had appeared in a previous issue of the magazine. He gave a bit of biography about the Crerars, which we will pass on to you. Mrs. Crerar is a native of Galt, Ont. and Mr. Crerar (her husband) was born in London, England, but has lived in Canada since 1924. In 1948 he was, and still is, a pianist at the Royal York Hotel. The Crerars, in 1948, had two sons, three and one year old respectively, and they had compiled crossword puzzles for years for their own, and their friends' fun without thought of publication. Most of their crossword puzzle-making is carried out in the late evenings after the children are asleep. Mr. Crerar is a heavy smoker of hand-rolled cigarettes, which to us, is a mark of distinction.

We would like to roll our own cigarettes too, but every time we have tried it friends offer us tailor-mades, ask us if we want to borrow a couple of bucks, or wonder aloud if the sheriff has finally caught up with us. Being a moral coward we go back to smoking machine-made coffin nails, the victim of something we pretend to deride: the opinions of our friends.

There has probably never been an article of clothing or furniture more frequently stolen than the umbrella. An article in the Women's Section, titled "Umbrella for Umbrella" deals with the etiquette surrounding this pestiferous appendage. Ralph Waldo Emerson, when he was an old man and had lost his memory for many common words, said, speaking about an umbrella, "I can't tell its name, but I can tell its history. Strangers take it away." And SATURDAY NIGHT cautions its readers, "Do not set your umbrella down in somebody's hallway, not even for a minute. If your host offers to relieve you of it, decline graciously." Or buy yourself a plastic raincoat. Or, better still, stay at home.

The HARE, the TORTOISE and HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

NEARLY everyone knows the famous Aesop fable about the hare and the tortoise. There is a good lesson in it for all of us, but for people who have high blood pressure this ancient fable can have a special meaning.

You may remember that the tortoise "pursued a slow but steady pace straight to the end of the course." Yet he won the race simply by taking it in his stride. Indeed, he took life much, much easier than the hare.

This is exactly what doctors wish that all patients who have high blood pressure, or hypertension, would do. In fact, people who have moderate, uncomplicated high blood pressure are often helped simply by learning to adjust their lives to a slower pace.

A relaxed attitude toward life is important in the treatment of this disorder because rush, "drive" and emotional tension can cause an already elevated blood pressure to rise to even higher levels. This is why doctors advise a steady, easy pace during the day and eight or more hours of sleep every night.

In addition, patients should carefully follow their doctor's advice about diet and eating habits. Above all, weight should be constantly kept at the proper level, because high blood pressure and overweight often go hand in hand.

People who learn to take these precautions may live happily, usefully and actively with hypertension even to old age.

Of course, if blood pressure reaches and stays at an excessively high level . . . or if it is caused by an underlying disease . . . the situation becomes more serious. Even in these cases, there are often ways to lower pressure and relieve symptoms—such as drugs, surgery and special diets.

High blood pressure affects several hundred thousand Canadians . . . and is a major cause of heart disease in middle age and later years. If you have reached the years when high blood pressure is most likely to occur . . . if you are overweight . . . and if there has ever been high blood pressure in your family, do not neglect to see your doctor for regular medical examinations. When discovered early, hypertension is usually easier to control.

The outlook for still better methods of treating hypertension is promising—as studies by many agencies, including the Life Insurance Medical Research Fund, progress. The Fund, supported by 146 Life Insurance Companies, is devoting much of its research to hypertension and blood vessel disorders.

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DCM-77

The Social Scene

Sunday Session of the BHA

THE PUBLIC BAR of Hunter's Hall in Gloucestershire was a long, stone-walled room smelling pleasantly of ripe manure, Rhodesian tobacco (the only kind that hard-pressed Britishers can buy with Sterling) and sour ale slops. It was crowded. Most of the tenant farmers of the area, together with farm helpers from the big estates, were jostling one another's elbows. There was a sprinkling of elderly gentlemen sitting in rows along the walls or in the dark corner that is inevitably known as "Gaffers' Hole." Two dart games were in progress and a shove ha'penny board was in use. But the majority of the men were grouped around a battered piano which was receiving the kind of attention I associate with the New York Bowery.

It was Sunday morning, though the evidence seemed against it.

A young fellow was hammering the piano while beside him a tall, gaunt farmer was manipulating a device consisting of an old tea chest equipped with a long handle and a number of gut strings nailed down with copper spikes. The gaunt one had a foot braced on the box, a firm grip on the handle, and with his free hand he plucked lustily at the strings. Every few moments he wrapped his lips about an ancient brass hunting horn hanging from the wooden ceiling, and blew a timely blast.

I stood near the door for a moment and stared with growing pleasure at the jovial assembly, but I was a little puzzled by it too. A red-faced young man beside me grinned broadly when I asked what all this merriment was in aid of.

"You married?" he asked between satisfying draughts from his pint.

I assured him that I was.

"Then maybe you'll want to join us," he said. "It's the local branch of the British Husbands' Association, you know. We meet here every Sunday morning for it's the one time of the week that it galls the women awful to have us away. They're for having us to church, maybe, and it fair drives them silly when we don't show up on time for Sunday meal. You understand me?"

I understood perfectly and my interest in BHA, as it is familiarly known throughout England, grew apace. During the weeks following my informal initiation at Hunter's Hall, I made it a point to investigate the BHA fairly thoroughly. I was impressed. And I want to pass on my discovery of the most vital, satisfying and intelligent mass movement to be initiated in this century.

BHA is a spontaneous movement without officers, written codes or official membership. Unofficially it embraces a large percentage of married British males. It probably took its beginnings from the late war when women entered the services in large numbers and did more than a fair share of the job of saving Britain. No Englishman grudged them all honor for their efforts, but the trouble was that after the war ended the women seemed unwilling to realize that it was time for them to become female once again. They became, in the language of my friend from Hunter's Hall, "too damned uppity, by half!"

Soldiers, seamen and airmen from the British forces returned home to find their wives and sweethearts wearing trousers, and enjoying the experience so much that they had no intention of going back to skirts — certainly not to Victorian skirts at any rate. At first the men tried to be reasonable about it, assuming that common sense would return into the hearts of their women folk in due time. But the rot had gone deep. And it had been largely assisted by a spate of Hollywood films which had portrayed too well the rapid and powerful growth of the U.S. matriarchy.

Englishmen began to discuss the problem amongst themselves, which was an indication of how seriously they took it, since it takes catastrophe to make an English husband speak about his family, or his home, to an outsider. In pubs the length and breadth of England the feeling of unease and worry quickened. There were those who claimed the whole thing was a deep plot initiated by Americans who wanted to see the Britishers humbled in their own homes, as the male Yanks had long since been humbled in theirs. There were others who saw in it a flat threat of open revolt on the part of British women against the ancient and reasonable tradition that a woman's place was one full step behind her spouse. But whatever the causes, one thing was clear, the situation was serious and getting worse.

The whole foundation of a man's superiority in his own home was being undermined, and it required no genius to see that in a generation the woman would have the upper hand. So the aroused British husbands began to organize. It was done secretly at first, but so rapid was the spread of the counter-revolt that by 1948 the British Husbands' Association had emerged openly from every pub in England, and battle was joined.

The motto "Keep Her in Her Dress and in Her Home" became as familiar

as the phrase "Cheerio" or "Here's H..w" wherever men got together.

As was to be expected, there was a nu..ber of unauthorized variations on th.. motto.

.. senior pilot in British Overseas Ai..ways summed up the situation for m.. one night over gin and bitters. As it ..appened, there were seven bottles of ..itters in his flat, and only about tw.. ounces of gin.

This is the sort of thing we're up ag..inst," he said somewhat bitterly. "M.. wife's a stewardess on BOAC, an.. about now she's probably swilling sw..zles in Calcutta, when she damn we.. should be home seeing to the co..tents of the cellar."

I sympathized with him. Deeply.

The trouble," he went on, "is that Th.. y have no sense of proportion any mo..e. Give 'em an inch, and by hea..ven, They take the whole of Engla..d! First it's our jobs, and then our tro..sers, and—" he paused and fixed me with a sombre eye—"once They get enough scientific nonsense in their hea..ds, who knows where it'll end." He flicked an open copy of a magazine towards me and I saw with a shiver of apprehension that it lay open at an article dealing with artificial insemination.

"It's already happened in the States," he continued gloomily as he downed his bitters, "and you fellows might be next. Take my advice. When you get back to Canada sound the tocsin. Start a CHA, my lad, before it's too late."

"But just what is the BHA doing about the problem?" I enquired.

"We fight 'em," my friend replied with vigor. "Fight 'em on the streets, and on the beaches, and in the underground. Give no quarter. Go back to the old slogan—A woman, a dog and a beechnut tree, the more you beat 'em, the better they be. And remember, it's for their own good as well as ours. How many happy modern women do you know, eh? Most of 'em just a bundle of psychoses and neuroses. Discipline is what they need, then they'll be happy—doing the job they're built for. They'll be happy enough then. Damn me, if they won't!"

The actual methods used by BHA vary with each man's individual case, of course, but they range from the passive resistance of my friends in the Gloucestershire pub to active guerrilla operations with a stout stick, or the heel of a springy slipper. Ridicule has been found particularly useful, for it would appear that women are singularly bereft of humor about their new devotion to careers. BHA propaganda is efficient and clever.

For example, taking advantage of the current hysteria about Russia, Englishmen point out that the fractious and anti-social behavior of the Communists is undoubtedly due to the terrible error of letting women into the Party on equal terms. Press photographs of Russian female equal-rights-ers wielding sledge hammers with the muscles of a new Samson seem to have a useful effect on British wives too.

Ex-members of the Guards Brigade have preferred to use Sergeant-Major's discipline and they report that a woman can be out-shouted by any man in reasonable parade-voice training, providing he has the will to win. But perhaps the best method is the soothing touch. The "Yes, of course, my dear, do trot along and play your little games—it's good for you to have a hobby" routine always gets results.

There is no doubt but that the men of England have been fighting well. And slowly, but very surely, the men are winning. The women know it too. The female bus conductors on London buses show it by the harried looks they wear with their trousers. The wife of a London publisher showed it clearly, when she replied to a query of mine about the BHA.

"They should be shot," she said viciously; and then a strange and wistful look came into her eyes. "But," she added softly, "I hope they never are . . ."

It was as certain an admission of defeat as any woman could ever make.

FARLEY MOWAT

The Pineal Gland

The pineal gland, that was once an
eye on the skull's prow,
dreams now over bails of brain behind the brow—
dreams of the sea it once knew when
it was young,
and in the darkness still as brave
rocks over thought as on a wave.

LOUIS DUDEK

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ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

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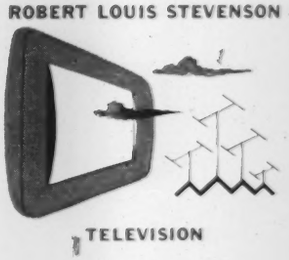
THE QUEEN MARY

GOLF

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON


TELEVISION

QUEEN ANNE
RARE SCOTCH WHISKY
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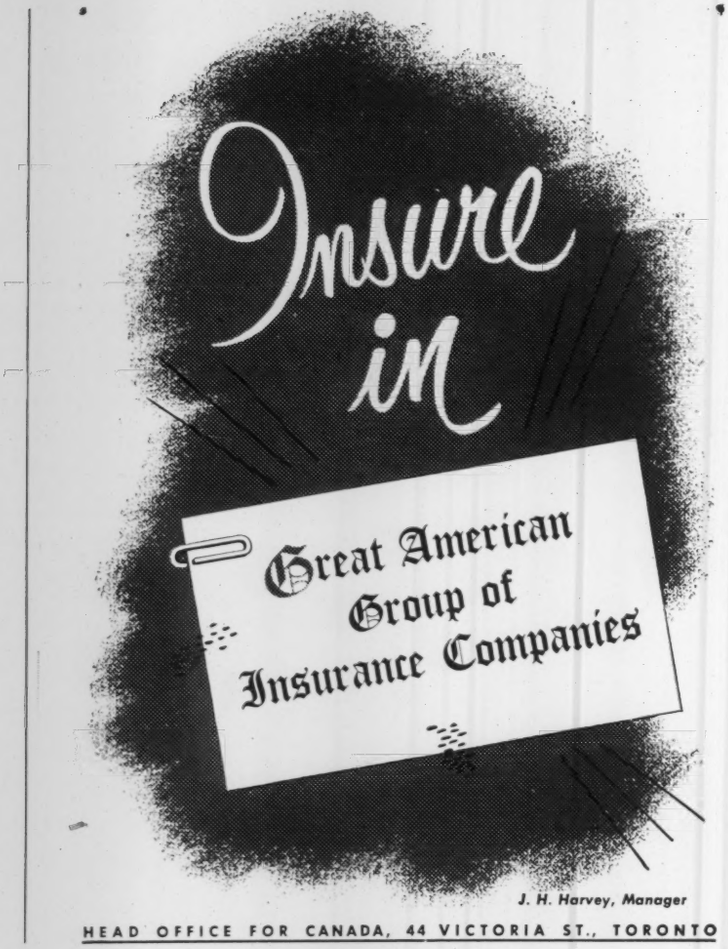

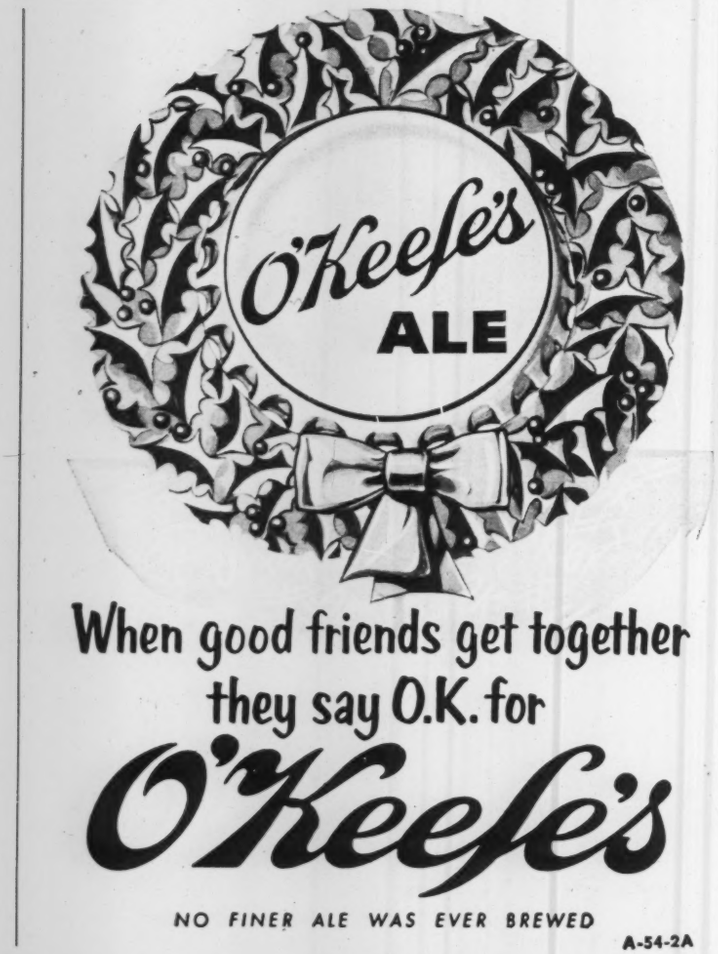

Books

Milton Cross Stubs His Toe

IT WOULD BE EASIER to write in a complimentary vein about the two volumes called *Milton Cross' Encyclopedia of the Great Composers and their Music* if they had been given some less grandiose name. But from an encyclopaedia of music we expect something reasonably comprehensive; we expect that limits will be set to the work, but that these limits will be wide apart, and within those limits we expect information which can be trusted and opinion which is justified either by authoritative personal scholarship or reference to some body of accepted belief. In Mr. Cross's book we look for these things in vain.

Let us not be unreasonable in our demands upon Mr. Cross. He is a musical popularizer, and there is nothing wrong with that so long as he is not also a musical cheapener. For many years we have been familiar with his soothing, oleaginous voice, as he explains the broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera matinées. We do not expect from him either the authority of a Grove or the original opinions of a Tovey. But when he prepares a book and calls it an encyclopaedia we expect that he will offer the public something which it can understand and reasonably trust.

His book is described on its cover (perhaps by the publisher but surely with Mr. Cross's sanction) thus: "The lives and music of the 78 composers who have contributed most to listener pleasure; analytical notes, the anatomy of the symphony orchestra, a glossary of basic musical terms, dictionary of musical forms and 100 basic works from the record library, index and bibliography." The Foreword, which Mr. Cross certainly wrote, says that the book is "an attempt to gather within the confines of two volumes all the information he (the music lover) needs on every facet of serious music." Later, with magnificent disregard for the publications of his musical betters, he says that he feels that this is the first time that a popular work has attempted to provide so much about so many composers and so many of their works. Humph! Later he says that sections of his book give information essential to "a mature appreciation of music", and finally he compliments a Mrs. Gelatt for what he describes as "her painstaking and fastidious copy editing".

Well, let us see how Mr. Cross delivers the goods which he has introduced in this self-congratulatory style.

Who are his 78 composers? We look at the list and find them all men who deserve inclusion, with the possible exception of Paganini, who was a great executant, but who never wrote a bar of first-rate music in his life. Why Paganini, and not a word about Henry Purcell? And though we are happy to see Delius in this list, we wonder if he has given as much "listener pleasure" as Delibes? Why include George Gershwin and not Edward German? If we are to have Villa-Lobos, should we not also have Vivaldi? And has Schoenberg given more "listener pleasure" (since that is to be the standard) than Sir Arthur Sullivan?

Mr. Cross, or his publishers, would have been wiser not to have used that foolish phrase "listener pleasure." Did Richard Strauss, who is in, really tickle more ears than Johann Strauss, who is left out? And if musical worth is the real standard after all, and not "listener pleasure", why does the book say nothing of George Antheil, Balakirev, Arnold Bax, Arthur Bliss, John Blow, William Byrd, Cherubini, Cimarosa, Couperin, Corelli and so forth, down the musical alphabet? Mr. Cross has made his own taste the criterion for his inclusions, and he is perfectly right to do so, but why does he call this book of personal preferences an encyclopaedia, and why does he pretend that it will serve the music lover as a guide to all he needs to know?

What does Mr. Cross mean, precisely, by "every facet of serious music"? He has dished up an account of all the music before Bach in nine muddled pages, though the day has long since passed when even the musical amateur who flirts with the gramophone is unaware of the delights of Scarlatti, Couperin, Purcell, the madrigalists and a good deal of pre-Bach music. Apparently Mr. Cross thinks that it is enough for the ordinary music lover to know what can be crammed into 23 lines about the madrigal writers. And why, by the way, does he refer, both in this passage and later in his Dictionary of Musical Forms to "Now Is the Month of Maying" as a typical madrigal? It is in fact a "ballett", which is a form of madrigal indeed, but not the typical form: this is the kind of misleading information which Mr. Cross should have taken pains to avoid, if he wants to be taken seriously.

IT IS this same carelessness which leads him to describe the flute and piccolo as having "a mouth hole through which the breath is blown". No, not *through*, but *across*, and as this is the first thing that any observant child notices about the instruments in question, Mr. Cross might have taken pains to get it right. Similarly, we are told that a fandango is composed "in triple time", which is a misleading way of saying that it is in three-in-a-measure, or six-in-a-measure time; this is the more confusing as in other places Mr. Cross is careful about time signatures. And what is Plainsong defined as "An old form of church song, sung in unison, with all notes of equal value". Are the glories

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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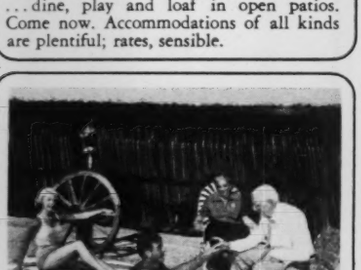

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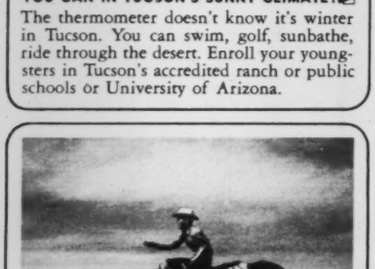

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

of Gregorian chant really to be dismissed thus? And why is Castrato defined as "a eunuch with an artificial female voice"? Artificial, perhaps, but those who have heard it describe it as no more female than the note of a trumpet. The list of unsatisfactory explanations and muddled half-facts could be extended for some pages. It is this sloppiness, this sense of anything-is-good-enough, which perpetually vexes the reader of Mr. Cross's book.

Yet there are odd pedantries in it, too. Descant is invariably spelled "discant", presumably from the Latin "discantus". This must be the work of Mrs. Gelatt, whose fastidious copy editing is not elsewhere to be observed.

It is wrong, but tempting, for a critic to try to read an author's mind, but I think that when the notion for this book occurred to Mr. Cross something like this must have run through his head: "I'll do some notes on composers' lives, with plenty of anecdotes, a good general notion of each fellow's music, some analytical stuff on the pieces the customers are most likely to hear on the radio, the gramophone, and at concerts. I can do this pretty well, and my name as a music broadcaster will sell the book. But to give it weight and an important look I'll get David Ewen to put in some encyclopaedic stuff; it won't take him long and the people who want to read me won't bother with it anyway." And so Mr. Ewen set to work, and the publishers assure us on the jacket that he "combines rare scholarship with a human approach to music and musicians". This rare scholarship does not seem to include careful use of such works as Grove's Dictionary, or Percy Scholes's *Oxford Companion to Music*.

Observe that the Scholes work is called simply a *Companion*. It does not make bumptious play with that very dangerous word Encyclopaedia. Yet Scholes's book is truly an encyclopaedia in a single volume; its scholarship is first-rate and it is written in a style which is popular without being vulgar.

It is the vulgar pretentiousness of Mr. Cross's book which rubs the musical amateur raw. If he had published his pieces about musicians and music, and had called it a Concert-Goer's Handbook, or something modest of the kind, it would have done quite well for people whose approach to music is not serious, even on the amateur level. But to call it an encyclopaedia—no, no!

And so, as the great gold curtains fall upon Mr. Cross's book we are conscious of the tragedy of a radio commentator who, striding too boldly into the field of scholarship, has stubbed his toe, and the SATURDAY NIGHT audience departs, shaking its head.

ROBERTSON DAVIES

MILTON CROSS' ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE GREAT COMPOSERS AND THEIR MUSIC—2 vols. and 1009 pages — *Doubleday* — $6.50.

Light and Shade

WHEN PEOPLE UNDERTAKE to write about a very great man they may throw some light on their subject, but they invariably tell us a great deal about themselves. Two books about Bernard Shaw have appeared: one is called "A Critical Survey" and it gathers together a great many essays written between 1901 and 1951, discussing Shaw as a philosopher, an economist, and a playwright; the other, which is described as "An Anthology and A Symposium", is narrower in its scope, for it deals with Shaw as a socialist and an influence on society. Both books are good in their way, and Shavians will want to read them.

The first, edited by Louis Kronenberger, begins with an introductory essay by the editor himself, and immediately he falls into a trap which he might have been expected to avoid; he tries to out-Shaw Shaw. Some critics find it hard to write *about* a man without trying, no doubt unconsciously, to write *like* him. In Mr. Kronenberger's own essay and in several which follow in his collection there is a false sprightliness, a paradoxical rattling, a colloquial affectation, which suggests Shaw without being in any real sense like Shaw; it is as though these writers had come to a fancy-dress ball in tweed suits and cotton-wool beards, hoping to be recognized as representations of Shaw but not altogether confident about it. It is precisely thus that some writers cannot deal with Shakespeare without trying to be poetic, or the eighteenth century without a few pseudo-Augustan flourishes. Writers who fall into this trap do so because they are attempting to live beyond their intellectual means, and they succeed only in making themselves look more poverty-stricken than is really the case. In Shaw's case the temptation is a particularly strong one, for he has influenced modern prose writing more extensively than any author of the past hundred years.

The two best essays in this book are the first, written by Max Beerbohm, and the last, written by Thomas Mann. Beerbohm is not a writer of Shavian scope, but he is a great critic, and one of the wisest men of letters living today. When he wrote this estimate of Shaw as a dramatist he was 29; he appears to have been fully as wise and just then as he is today. Somebody said of Beerbohm that he had been born with the gift of perpetual old age, and this instance of the excellence of his judgment seems to bear it out. Of Thomas Mann we may say that he is of Shaw's own stature, and thus better capable of understanding Shaw than some of the lesser men who have sought to pass judgment on him. Mann knows how hard it is to be a great man; he knows how carefully every scrap that the great man has written, and every word that he has uttered, is weighed by the jealous professional estimators of literary worth, and how quickly a man like

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Shaw is called to account when something which he wrote in 1935 does not precisely tally with something which he wrote in 1895. A writer of Mann's stature can be just and charitable in his estimate of a man as great as Shaw. He has nothing to gain by chipping pieces off the Shaw monument.

It is curious, as we read this book, to come upon a woolly piece by James Huneker, once greatly admired as a critic, and now all but forgotten; if Huneker was as good as we have been assured that he was, why have we no modern anthology from his work? G. K. Chesterton wrote of Shaw with the delicacy of perception and generosity of spirit which characterized him; like Mann, he knew what it was to be perpetually under judgment. Dixon Scott's estimate of Shaw is nothing more than an attempt to show that Scott could have been a Shaw if he had not been too busy being a Scott, and Philip Littel's piece is no better. But George Jean Nathan, in five pages, says something very pertinent about Shaw; he points out that in all of Shaw's work he is in full retreat from sex, and without harping on the subject he suggests that this must be taken into consideration in every critical estimate of Shaw's work. Once again we recognize that Mr. Nathan is one of the few important critical intelligences of our time. Edmund Wilson's essay is, as always, closely reasoned and interesting, but Mr. Wilson's passion for wagging a schoolmasterly finger at his subject has never been so badly out of control. And among the younger writers there are excellent contributions from W. H. Auden, Jacques Barzun, Stephen Spender, and V. S. Pritchett.

None of these pieces are new. They have all appeared before in books or periodicals. But it is valuable to have them gathered into one book, and the standard of criticism is, upon the whole, a very high one.

Smaller in scope, but more completely successful as a book, is *Shaw and Society*. When we see that it is edited for the Fabian Society by the late C. E. M. Joad, and that two of the principal contributors are Kingsley Martin and Hugh Dalton, we know what to expect. What we get is actually rather better than what we expected. The fish-horn note of doctrinaire socialism is rarely sounded, and there is much reminiscence of Shaw which is of greater interest than, let us say, the volume published by his secretary.

This book contains essays about Shaw, extracts from Shaw's letters to the Fabian Society, passages from his published work, and three memorial lectures which were delivered before the Fabians by Joad, Dalton and Benn W. Levy, the playwright. It is a valuable book, illuminating the socialist side of Shaw's character as nothing previously published has quite succeeded in doing.

S. M.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, A Critical Survey—edited by Louis Kronenberger—pp. 257 and index—*Nelson, Foster & Scott*—$7.00.

SHAW AND SOCIETY, An Anthology and a Symposium—edited by C. E. M. Joad—pp. 299, with frontispiece—*Nelson, Foster & Scott*—$3.50.

In Brief

BLIND JOURNEY—by Bruce Lancaster—pp. 303—*McClelland & Stewart*—$4.50.

In 1781 Dr. Benjamin Franklin was in Paris as the first American minister to France. A member of his household was Ward Gratwick, a young officer who pined for home, his girl, and another chance to fight the British. His adventurous voyage with a shipment of French gold from Lorient to Yorktown via the Antilles is the "blind journey" of the title. But unlike those historical novels which are built solidly around the alabaster bosom, this one treats sex very gingerly, has no really interesting women, and as a result is quite predictable and vaguely dull.

THE SHADOWS OF THE IMAGES—A novel by William E. Barrett—pp. 540—*Doubleday*—$4.50.

An upsetting book on many counts, as a summary of the plot may indicate. A girl who has become pre-maritally pregnant fakes a rape charge against three handy males with a record in that line, hoping that she may thus qualify for an abortion. She doesn't, although the men are convicted. So she marries and has the baby, but rather predictably turns out to be something less than a model mother. Eventually she reacts to her baby's crying by flinging it fatally against a wall.

Enter the main male character, her brother-in-law, a noble cop. He knows she killed the baby. But he's off-duty. She fixes a story that satisfies the on-duty men. Noble cop doesn't feel quite right about this, however, so he goes to his priest who, in a masterwork of sophist mumbo-jumbo, tells him to limit his intervention to praying for her — she'll be punished enough in her heart, and the falsely-convicted rapists had raped somebody else earlier, anyway. Still, it hardly seems cricket.

RIVER FOR MY SIDEWALK—by Grant Madison pp. 135—Wood engravings by Julius Griffith—*Dent*—$2.50.

If bears, mice and cougars have a Book Club, this is their meat. The author, who lives in a shack in the Selkirk mountains, loves all nature (human excepted) and thus makes out a good case for the life of a near-hermit. Despite occasionally beautiful writing, however, the book must have a faintly carping quality for anyone who believes that not all the lovable rascals in the world have four legs.

MOUNTIE ON TRIAL—by Oscar Olson—pp. 257—*Ryerson*—$3.25.

This adventure story, by a member of the RCMP who is still on active service, tells about a Mountie who was framed but came back from the penitentiary to get his man. The style is wooden, the denouement shockingly coincidental, and the fact that the book ever was published must be considered an example of the doggedness for which Mounties are noted.

WHAT TIME THE TEMPEST—An Army Chaplain's story—by Waldo Smith—pp. 305—with photographic illustrations—*Ryerson*—$4.00.

This may be the finest book yet written about Canadians in World War II, the best and worst of war as seen through the eyes of a wise and observant man.

The author, now on the faculty of Queen's University, was United Church minister in an Ontario village when war began. He also was a veteran of four years of military training, first in the ranks and then as an artillery lieutenant. His personal story as a padre is used modestly as the framework on which is laid the frustrations of our equipment-poor training in Canada, the long wait in England, Dieppe (he was in the off-shore flotilla), and finally the bravery and fear and blood and vino of the long campaign through Sicily and Italy. Travelling much of the time near the front lines in a jeep-ambulance, he buried a lot of men along the way, altering the Committal so that he did not say that it pleased God to take the soul of the departed, because ". . . if your friend has been blown to bits . . . you do not see it as an act of God."

This was all in addition to his regular job of writing next-of-kin letters,

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conducting church services, listening to men who needed help to bear their griefs and carry their sorrows. He ended the war as a Chaplain Major. The fact that he also was awarded the Military Cross is not mentioned in his book.

THE MARMOT DRIVE—by John Hersey—pp. 273—*McClelland & Stewart—$4.00.*

A disappointment from a noted author. The central situation is a community woodchuck hunt in Connecticut during which a New York girl is being looked over (very closely, in some cases) by the parents and friends of a man she thinks she *might* marry. The cad rather stubbornly has insisted on waiting for marriage before consummating the affair and as a result the girl stomps out into the tall grass that first morning rather full of unfocussed female desire. This makes the week-end tough on everybody but the woodchucks.

THE WILD PLACE—by Kathryn Hulme—pp. 275—*McClelland & Stewart—$4.25.*

A few years ago many people now in our industries and universities and professions lived in the DP camps of Europe. In these camps they loved and had babies, killed, fought, stole, and were kind to one another, and one of the camps was Wildflecken — The Wild Place. Kathryn Hulme was deputy director of that camp. Here a sense of humor and a sense of tragedy work side by side in a book of great power and compassion, winner of the Atlantic $5,000 non-fiction award, a valuable addition to the literature of war's aftermath.

THE BLOW AT THE HEART—by Bernard Glemser—pp. 279—*S. J. Reginald Saunders —$3.65.*

It is a pleasure to read a book by a man who lives with his eyes and ears open to life—life in this case being a Long Island outpost of New York commuterdom. The main character is a commercial artist named Gilhooley. His wife and child are positive models of their craft, refreshingly enough, and the neighbors are wonderfully real although one always is seen moodily flying a kite and another is known in the Gilhooley household as "the artificial-insemination lady." A wise and comic book by a man with 20-20 vision in his insight.

THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET—by Leicester Hemingway—pp. 308—*McLeod—$4.00.*

It is a good thing for humanity that Americans aren't all as they are represented in what must now be recognized as the standard-load U.S. war novel, of which this one by a brother of Ernest Hemingway is the latest sad example. It concerns an Army film unit in Europe during World War II and is full of the usual cowards, sadists, drunks, and men who "love" with all the discrimination of wild boars. Or, one is tempted to say, wild bores.

THE ALIEN SKY—by Paul Scott—pp. 284—*McClelland & Stewart—$2.75.*

An American finds a snapshot of a girl whom his brother had met in India during the war, betrayed, then left. Her eyes draw him from the U.S. to India to make her his own, but when the bed is made (despite her husband) he finds himself unable to jump in. There are some good minor characters, some good scenes, but in general the novel—set against India in 1947, when the Raj was folding its tent — fails to measure up to its potentially great background.

SCOTT YOUNG

Chess Problem

A BLACK ROOK can readily operate four self-blocks, a favorite task with composers over the years. Again White collected about 70 examples of which 20 combine a masked White King battery, as in the following by A. C. Challenger. Its excellent key results in a change-mate, involving one of the self-blocks:

White: K on QKt7; Q on KKt4; R on QB2; B on QR8; Kts on QR4 and QB4. Black: K on Q4; R on QB3; Kt on QKt8; Ps on K4 and KB3. Mate in two.

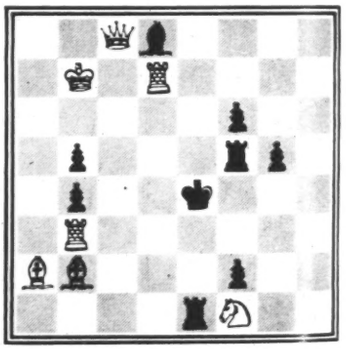
Key-move 1.R-K2, waiting. If RxKt; 2.Q-Q7 mate. If R-K3; 2.Q-K4 mate. If R-B4; 2.QKt-Kt6 mate. If R-Q3; 2.Kt-K3 mate.

With three Rook self-blocks the combination is a little more adequate and fruitful. There are about 160 examples, half of them with the three mates all given by the white Queen.

Our No. 44 is an elaborated modern example in this field.

Problem No. 44, by C. W. Sheppard.

Black—Nine Pieces.



White—Seven Pieces.
White mates in two.

Solution of problem No. 43

Key-move 1.Q-Kt4, threatening 2.Kt-Q4 mate. If K-Kt4; 2.Kt-B7 mate. If K-Q7; 2.KtxKtP mate. If K-Q4; 2.Kt-Kt5 mate.

An interesting feature of this No. 43, is that the threat 2.Kt-Q4 mate is a model after three different replies by Black; after BxKt it is a double check model, after PxR it is a plain model, and after B-B3 it is a pin-model.

This is an example of a three-fold battery, just as F. Janet's white Knight wheel, No. 41, has a four-fold battery. The outstanding merit of Janet's problem is that it also has separate mates for each of the four moves of the black King.

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Business

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Henry Janes

"THE HARD FACTS governing insurance costs are clearly apparent . . . The accident rate has increased 400 per cent since the end of the war."

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE, the prima donna of the insurance field these days, is being given still more study by government agencies. A Federal Combines investigator is checking on trade practices and their effect on rates. Manitoba, following Ottawa's lead, has a Commission looking into the rates charged for public liability, property damage and allied matters involving highway safety. And, of course, there is a constant muttering that the rates in the Saskatchewan Government's auto insurance scheme make others look high by comparison.

Competent observers do not consider that the Saskatchewan plan can be compared with privately-operated insurance. In their view, it is indirectly subsidized and is actually losing money. The bulk of the auto insurance business, about 90 per cent of it, is carried on by association companies (member companies of The Dominion Board of Insurance Underwriters), Canadian, British and United States concerns which operate through the agency system. The other ten per cent is handled by direct writers.

How much of the hullabaloo about rates stems from politicians with an eye on green pastures in other insurance lines and how much from any real concern on the part of the public is an interesting and debatable point. The automobile industry is the largest single industry in the world today and North America is the hub of it. Certainly the hard facts governing insurance costs are clearly apparent to the average driver, who knows that the car which cost $900 in 1939 costs him over $2,000 today and that the dented fender which $5 fixed then costs $20 to repair now. Add these two factors to the tremendous increase in the car population—54 per cent of Canadian families own at least one and we invest more money in autos than farms—and the reasons for the 400 per cent increase in the accident rate and the increase of more than 300 per cent in claims since the end of the war become obvious.

Net auto insurance premiums in Canada in 1952 amounted to $121,223,125 and claims totalled $75,990,105. Right away it is apparent that the loss ratio of 53 per cent, beyond which the insurance companies calculate they are losing money, is taking quite a beating. The actual loss ratio for 1952 was 62.7 per cent. In the previous year it was 65 per cent. These are the figures which account for the average driver paying $70 to $75 today for coverage he bought prewar for $40.

Faced with the possibility of further increases in claims—which jumped by $24 million in the past two years alone—certain steps have been taken by the association companies to meet these conditions, steps which will not only help to offset the competition of the direct underwriters but prevent, where possible, any further increases and bring about possible reductions in the cost of auto insurance to the public.

The agents have been asked to accept a 25 per cent reduction in their commission rate and the companies have agreed to take a reduction of approximately 20 per cent in the expense allowance in the premium dollar. The effect of this is found in the introduction of a new rating formula based on an allowable loss factor of 63 per cent and an expense ratio, for all other costs, of 37 per cent. It should be noted that this reduces the average agent's commission from 20 per cent to 15 per cent. This is the second reduction in agent commission put into effect since the war, as the agent formerly received 25 per cent of the premium dollar and it is this second reduction which has caused so much concern in fire and casualty agency circles.

The Association companies have now devised and put into effect the "Preferred Risk Rating Plan" for private passenger automobiles. This provides a 20 per cent reduction in premium cost of coverage against Bodily Injury, Property Damage and Collision to owners of autos who have been accident-free for three years.

This, while viewed as a step in the right direction, has come in for some criticism from agents on the ground that it does not go far enough. In other words, they feel that this "No Claims Category" is not broad enough and should be extended to include all passenger autos, including those used for business, and not be restricted, as it is now, to those used for pleasure only.

The Association companies have also announced that they are studying ways of reducing costs by simplifying forms and procedures in auto underwriting. There may be considerable scope in this field. The actual amount of underwriting is very limited, as far as paper work is concerned, and a simplified form, or even a "ticket" may well be practicable.

One suggestion made by the agents is significant in view of the difficulties faced by the association companies in these times. This is that efforts be made to establish, from the nuclei of the various existing rating bureaux, an organization which would be supported by all insurers.

The strong faith of the fire and casualty companies in free enterprise as expressed by the agency system is traditional. An agent in this field is not an employee of a company. He is an independent operator who may represent six or 20 companies, dependent upon the size and scope of his business. He is the person who deals with the company, the retailer, in effect, who sells the policy. We may not know with which company he has placed our insurance, but we hold him responsible for it. In matters pertaining to this insurance he is our guide, mentor and friend — particularly so in times of trouble.

There is an inherent danger to the company-agency system in the controversy that is going on.

The reduction in the auto insurance agent's commission rate will undoubtedly have a tendency towards the elimination of the smaller agent from this field and towards the concentration of the business in the hands of the larger agents. This, at the moment, may seem like an agreeable circumstance to the larger agents but will it prove to be quite so agreeable in the long-term view?

If the number of individual agents is reduced, so is the personal contact between the insurance buying public and the insurance company. This is a factor which can be underestimated by those not in direct contact with the public. It can be a boomerang, in that reduction of the agency force might mean a proportionate loss of public interest in the buying of insurance.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND LOSSES IN ONTARIO
(Excluding Adjustment Expenses)

	Net Premiums Written	Net Premiums Earned	Net Losses Incurred	Ratio Net Losses Incurred to Net Prems. Earned
	$	$	$	%
Totals for 1952	65,268,672	58,168,635	34,352,107	59.1
Totals for 1951	50,580,010	48,025,158	30,932,633	64.4
Totals for 1950	44,114,952	39,810,096	22,351,609	56.1
Totals for 1949	35,798,378	32,312,610	17,915,523	55.4
Totals for 1948	28,855,745	26,622,284	14,747,106	55.4
Totals—5 Years	224,622,757	204,938,783	120,298,978	58.7

Ontario Department of Insurance

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The periodical valuation and analysis of your holdings enables you to determine accurately your current investment position, and in some cases to make certain changes which will strengthen your position.

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DOMINION SECURITIES CORPN. LIMITED

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THE TORONTO MORTGAGE COMPANY

QUARTERLY DIVIDEND

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of $1.25 per share, together with an extra dividend of .25c per share, upon the paid-up Capital Stock of this Company, has been declared for the current Quarter, and that the same will be payable on

2nd JANUARY, 1954

to shareholders of record on the books of the Company at the close of business on 15th December, 1953.

By Order of the Board,
CHARLES PETTIT,
Manager.

December 3rd, 1953

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED

CUMULATIVE REDEEMABLE PREFERRED SHARES

NOTICE is hereby given that the Board of Directors has declared the following dividends for the three months ending 31st December, 1953.

4% Cumulattive Redeemable Preeferred Shares

No. 27. $1.00 per share, payable on 2nd January, 1954. The said dividend will be payable on or after said date in respect of shares specified in any share warrant on presentation of dividend coupon No. 27 at any branch of The Royal Bank of Canada in Canada.

4¾% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares

No. 21. $1.18 per share, payable on 2nd January, 1954. The said dividend will be payable on or after said date in respect of shares specified in any share warrant on presentation of dividend coupon No. 21 at any branch of The Royal Bank of Canada in Canada.

5% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares

No. 5. $0.63 per share, payable on 2nd January, 1954. The said dividend will be payable on or after said date in respect of shares specified in any share warrant on presentation of dividend coupon No. 5 at any branch of The Royal Bank of Canada in Canada.

5% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares — Issue of 1953

$0.12 per share, payable on 2nd January, 1954, covering the period from 15th December, 1953, to and including 31st December, 1953. The said dividend will be payable on or after said date in respect of shares specified in any interim share warrant marked "Issue of 1953" on presentation of dividend coupon No. 1 at any branch of The Royal Bank of Canada in Canada.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.
J. A. BRICE,
Secretary.

Vancouver, B.C.
16th December, 1953.

POWER CORPORATION OF CANADA LIMITED

The Board of Directors has declared the following dividend.

No par value Common Stock

No. 48. Quarterly, 50c. per share, payable December 31st, 1953 to holders of record at the close of business on December 7th, 1953.

V. J. NIXON,
Secretary.

Montreal, November 27th, 1953.

Gold & Dross

Brazilian Traction

I OWN BRAZILIAN TRACTION *common stock bought at an average price of 11¾. What is the reason for the sharp decline in the price and what are the prospects of a recovery? Do you consider the stock a purchase at present prices with the idea of reducing the average cost? Is the stock a hold for income and capital gain?—W. B., Peterborough, Ont.*

When this stock was last reviewed, August 22, it was pointed out that the economic difficulties that Brazil has been encountering, along with the deteriorating foreign exchange situation, had induced considerable selling as stockholders feared an interruption in dividends.

The recent announcement that a stock dividend in lieu of the regular cash dividend is under consideration served to crystallize the fears of shareholders, and generated the burst of selling that drove the stock down to a new low of 7¾. Short selling against the stock due under the dividend has also been a factor.

In our previous article it was estimated that the down objective of the stock was around 8. This estimate has been confirmed by the market action. At this price, the stock appears attractive for accumulation for long-term accounts. While the economic situation in Brazil is still grave, it must be remembered that the capital assets of the company are concentrated in the utility field. Earnings from these facilities are relatively stable and can be translated into dollars even though the Brazilian Government is forced to submit to the forces of the free market.

To block the export of earnings would have the effect of blocking the capital imports that Brazil needs to expand the physical plant of the country. Thus the rescinding of the "special interest" classification allotted to Brazilian seems highly unlikely and dividend payments seem fairly well assured. After all, a stock dividend can be sold for cash.

With the "news" out, the stock seems more of a purchase than a sale here, with the possibility of a recovery to about 9½.

Oil Selections

ABOUT TWO *years ago I purchased 7,500 shares in Oil Selections Ltd. at 37 cents. Since then they have declined steadily in price and are now quoted at seven cents. Will you give your opinion as to the prospects of these shares?—A. M. G., Vancouver.*

The prospects of this company do not appear to be too attractive. The proposed acquisition of Battle Plains Petroleum (for 1,222,005 shares of Oil Selections) and Scarlet Oils (for 1,960,005 shares) will add little in the way of working capital or oil.

Both of these companies have the bulk of their holdings in the Maidstone area which, so far, has produced a heavy gravity oil of limited marketability and, therefore, not the best suited to yield the production revenue needed to keep a company active in exploration and development work.

Acreage without the production income to offset the charges for leases is more of a liability than an asset at the present time, as so many small companies are showing in their balance-sheets, and it would appear that the reconstituted company will still face a difficult time in recovering its financial balance.

After suffering a loss of more than four-fifths of your capital, it might seem a fair bet to risk the loss of the remaining fraction, but practical trading demands that you switch into an issue which presents a greater possibility of recovery. As far as western oils are concerned, selection should be limited to companies with sufficient oil reserves to provide a production income of close to $1 million per year.

Calvan Consolidated

I HAVE RECENTLY *liquidated my holdings in several oil stocks, at a considerable loss. Would you now recommend one oil stock that you consider to be suitable for both long term investment and recovery of my losses?—G. A. R., Toronto.*

Calvan Consolidated appears to be a suitable vehicle for your purpose. At last report the company's income totalled $1,820,461 for the nine months ending September 30. Expenditures during this period were $1,533,562, leaving a comfortable gross income of $286,899. These figures compare very favorably with the total figures for 1952 operations. Sales for that year were $1,209,658 and it appears that the 1953 annual report will show sales of about $1.5 million if the rate of production that has been maintained since May is continued.

Although oil reserves are not disclosed, the interests held in 92 producing wells, to which must be added the 20 per cent interest in the 136 wells in Illinois where a secondary recovery program is proving successful, indicate that reserves are ample to maintain production income.

Exploration and development work has continued to increase reserves, with the latest well being brought in in the Homeglen area. Other areas such as Bargrave, where interests are held, also show promise.

The financial position of the company is good. Production income is sufficient to maintain development work and it is expected that the year's operations will provide a considerable addition to the earned surplus that stood at $205,474 at the end of 1952.

The future also holds some possibilities for effecting capital gains. Should the merger, which is rumored, with Canadian Atlantic Oil become a fact, interest will be stimulated in both stocks. This might be precipitat-

ed by a favorable decision by the Federal Power Commission, now expected in January, on the application of the Westcoast Gas Transmission Line.

From the chart position, which shows a good base of support has been forming under the $4.00 level since late October, it would appear that an upward move into the $5.00-$5.50 level could be generated. Supply above $5.50 will likely prove difficult to overcome.

Dragon Oils

I BOUGHT *8,000 shares of Dragon Oil and Gas Ltd. for $1.00 per share about a year ago. Please advise what you think of it at this price and what are my chances in the future for an advance in this stock to the price I paid for it. — A.B., St. Petersburg, Florida.*

At last report, Dragon held interests in 15 oil wells, three gas wells and in 1,670,792 acres of leases and reservations in Western Canada. Interests in the oil wells range from 14 to 25 per cent and in the acreage from 6 2/3 per cent in 1,214,882 acres in the Peace River area to 100 per cent in 1,120 acres at Vermilion.

As 2,937,505 of the authorized capital of 4 million shares have been issued, the present market price of 30 cents places a valuation on the company of $681,251.50.

With its minority position in the oil wells, the difficult question to answer at this time is whether or not the company has sufficient production income to offset the costs of drilling, lease rentals and overhead. Although the company had cash of $419,520 on December 1 a year ago, no further stock has been issued this year to reinforce the working capital position. It would appear that additional funds will be required if the company's activities are to be expanded.

The market valuation of the company would seem to be a fair assessment of its prospects. Without production figures and other financial data, it is the only one that can be accepted at the present time. For the stock to move back up to your purchase price would require a considerable increase in oil reserves and total assets. While a major oil discovery would do it, the odds are much too great against such a possibility to warrant waiting, and a switch into a larger company seems best.

Pan-Western Oil

I HAVE SHARES *in Pan-Western Oils for which I paid* 1.15. *Should I hold them for a while longer, or switch to something else? Should you advise holding them, do you think the price would go back to anything near what I paid for them? — H.O.M., Montreal.*

This company appears to be another over-capitalized and under-financed proposition. While interests are held in 13 oil and 5 gas wells in Alberta, plus some acreage holdings in Alberta and Saskatchewan, the capitalization now outstanding of 3,549,030 shares, when divided into the oil reserves of 1,434,000 barrels, even at $1.00 per barrel, leaves a considerable gap between value and market price.

Although there are 900,000 shares under option on a scale from 25 cents to 45 cents, the possibility of market improvement in the price of the shares is offset by the dilution of the available equity by nearly 25 per cent. The amount that would be realized would be barely sufficient to offset the deficit in working capital, shown in the August 1952 balance sheet, of $211,371.

Should a determined effort be made to market the optioned stock, it appears possible that a "push up" to around 55 cents could be managed. At this point the stock would likely be a sale.

A switch would be more in order as a means of recovering the capital loss you have suffered. This is based on the fact that the leaders of an advance will invariably advance more, on a percentage basis, than the bulk of any given group. Calvan Consolidated, which is reviewed here, would seem the most attractive switch at the present time.

In Brief

I HAVE A NUMBER *of shares of Consolidated Rochette Mines that cost me 18 cents. Do you think I have any hope of selling them at 18 cents or better, or should I let them go now? — M. L. W., Antigonish, N.S.*

From the stock action, the answer must be to sell on any rally.

WHAT IS YOUR *opinion of Mayfair Mines?—A. M., Byron, Ont.*

A poor bet.

WOULD YOU PLEASE *advise if I should sell Hamil Silver-Lead Mines? —B. J. M., Vancouver.*

You should.

I HOLD A NUMBER *of shares of Terrebonne Titanium. What is your opinion of this stock? — D. S. W., Montreal.*

A sale.

IS THERE *any prospect for Rheba Uranium at 30 cents? — H. J. G., Brantford, Ont.*

Not visible.

I HOLD *some shares in Bellekeno Mines. I would appreciate your advice on whether to sell or hold.— Mrs. N. J., Vancouver.*

Sell.

A FEW YEARS AGO *I purchased stock in Lead-Ura Mines. Can you tell me anything about its present status?— H. L. J., London, Ont.*

The company was renamed the Rare Earth Mining Corp in 1951. As the last report was dated May, 1951, it must be assumed that it is dormant.

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We regret that the volume of requests for information from Gold & Dross exceeds our capacity to answer them. Readers must confine their inquiries to one stock and must supply their full name and address. Letters without signatures and addresses will not be answered. W. P. SNEAD

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To yield about 4.02%

A circular giving the latest available information concerning the financial position of the Province together with further details of this new issue will be forwarded on request.

Mail or telephone inquiries receive prompt attention.

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Ltd.

McCOLL-FRONTENAC OIL COMPANY LIMITED

PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDEND NO. 30

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of $1.00 per share being at the rate of 4 per cent per annum has been declared on the 4% Cumulative Preferred Stock of the McColl-Frontenac Oil Company Limited for the quarter ending December 31st, 1953, payable January 20th, 1954, to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 31st, 1953.

By Order of the Board,

FRED HUNT, F.C.I.S.,
Secretary.

"Daddy will fix it"

Of course, "Daddy" will fix his little girl's doll for the same basic reason he provides for the unknown tomorrows through confidence in Canada Life. Each year more and more "Daddies" depend on Canada Life plans to safeguard growing futures.

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FIRE — CASUALTY — LIFE

L. L. ROOKE, General Manager — H. S. GOODERHAM, President — J. E. WHITE, General Manager

Ashley & Crippen

ROBERT RAE: A folder tells his story.

Who's Who in Business

AMONG THE neatly kept files of employee records at the headquarters of the Dominion Bank in Toronto is a yellowing folder devoted to Robert Rae. "Small but clean" is the description which accompanies the record telling that young Rae joined the bank as a clerk on January 13, 1906, at $18.98 per month.

At that time the junior clerk was 16 and had deliberately accepted a lower wage than he had been earning for the previous 12 months with a store, just for the opportunity of getting into a "man's job," which is how he regarded banking. (At that time, the bank's 387 employees included only seven women; today it employs 1391 women and only 1284 men.)

The record from there on shows how the junior clerk was kept on the move. He was sent to Brampton first, then to Uxbridge, Mt. Albert, Lindsay, Hamilton, Welland and Whitby—22 different appointments altogether in his banking career — with infrequent spells living with his Scottish-born parents in Toronto when work or brief vacations took him back there. The first really big step upward came in 1916, when he was appointed accountant of the bank's busy City Hall branch in his home town. Three years later he became a manager, in Montreal, and by 1920 was in New York as Assistant Agent. He left this post in 1929 to manage the main branch in Toronto.

On June 10, 1937, he celebrated his 47th birthday by being appointed General Manager and shortly afterwards his portrait began to appear on the bank's own bank notes for the first time. These were issued for a relatively short time before the Bank discontinued the practice. In 1945, when the Bank of Canada took over the responsibility for issuing bank notes, all this private currency was withdrawn from circulation. However, a $10 bill with Mr. Rae's picture was never reclaimed and, embodied in a paper weight, remains on his desk.

In 1948 the employee record was once again fetched from the files to have added to it, "appointed President," and Robert Rae moved into a walnut-panelled, sixth-floor office overlooking the downtown business area and Lake Ontario.

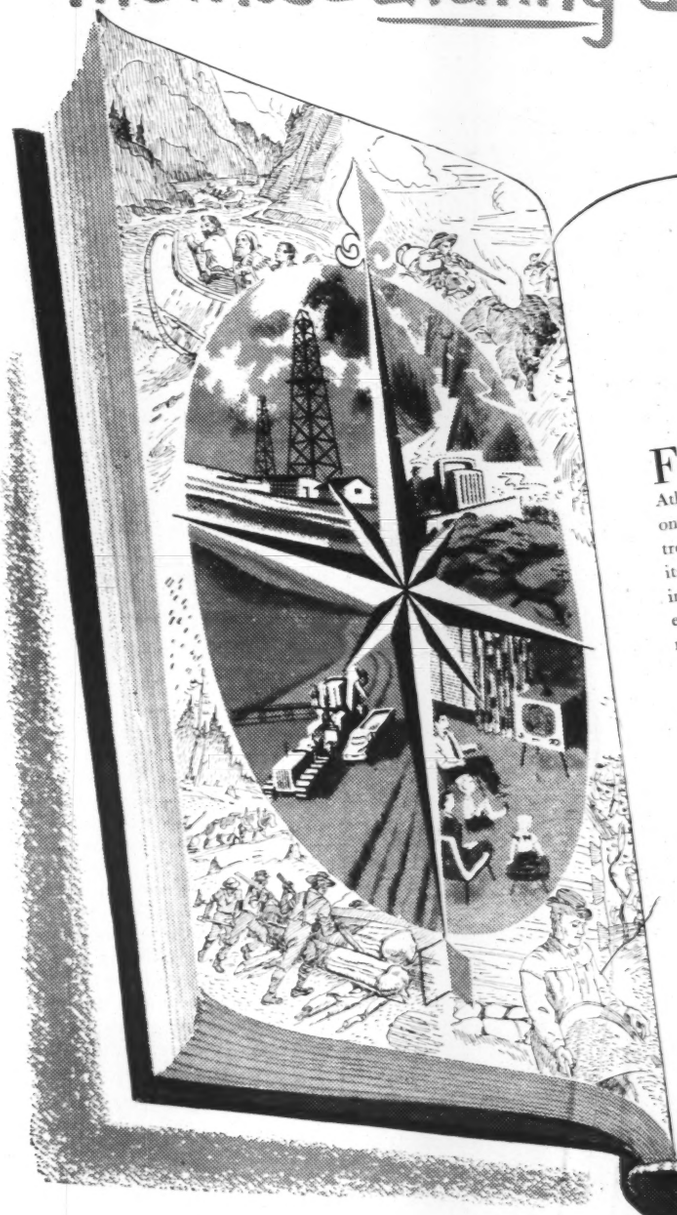
Silver-haired Robert Rae, married with no children, is a slow-speaking six-footer who chooses his words carefully and fixes the person he is addressing with a penetrating glance. He is a neat dresser and was once included in a list of the ten-best-dressed men in Canada. "The first I knew about this was a newspaper announcement," he explains. "Fortunately I've never been chosen since. I thought my friends would never let me hear the last of it."

He has been President of the Canadian Bankers' Association, a Vice-President of the Ontario region of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and a President of the St. Andrew's Society, in which his Scottish ancestry gives him an interest.

He likes to golf and fish, prefers to fly rather than drive his black Buick, and claims his tastes are orthodox in both food and reading. Aside from business literature, he likes detective stories, but he is also a bibliophile and has probably the best private collection in Canada of first and early editions of Canadian history.

JOHN WILCOCK

The Most Exciting Story in the World Today!



Chapter 1953

FROM THE GREAT LAKES to the Arctic Circle, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, Canada is on the march . . . developing its tremendous resources, harnessing its incalculable power . . . fashioning a story of progress more exciting than that of any other nation in the world today.

Across the land, Canadians are marching ahead, hand in hand, to the rhythm of the motor, the drill, the hammer and the machine. Vast iron ore deposits in Labrador . . . vital uranium in the East and in the West . . . new prospecting potentials in the far-north . . . oil flooding from the Prairies and the pipelines to carry it . . . more precious metals . . . mountain-moving developments in B.C. . . . great new chemical plants . . . new factories . . . new industries . . . new products . . . more food from fertile farms . . . fish from teeming waters . . . more people enjoying more benefits of better living—this is the story of Canada, the most exciting story in the world today!

Since 1817 The Bank of Montreal has moved ahead with Canadians in every walk of life. The year 1953 was no exception, as the facts and figures of its year-end report clearly show, with deposits and loans at the highest levels in the Bank's history. In this year the B of M worked with more than two million Canadians on every income level . . . with great industries and private citizens . . . with farmers, fishermen and lumbermen . . . with merchants, manufacturers and municipalities . . . lending its support to worthwhile Canadian developments of every size and nature, helping to make 1953 an outstanding chapter of achievement in Canadian history.

If you have a savings or business account at the B of M you may rest assured that your money has been working regularly —for you and for Canada. Depositing your money in any one of the B of M's 600 branches means that you are moving ahead to prosperity, hand in hand with Canada as she looks ahead to Chapter 1954 of the most exciting story in the world.

"MY BANK" TO 2 MILLION CANADIANS
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BANK OF MONTREAL
Canada's First Bank

MOVING AHEAD **WITH CANADIANS IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE SINCE 1817**

Canada's Christmas Store

The Santa Legend

SAINT NICHOLAS is, among other things, the patron saint of portionless maidens. Once, according to the legend, he took compassion on a poor man who, unable to afford dowries for his three daughters, was on the point of selling them as slaves.

Secretly and at night, Saint Nicholas threw a bag of gold through the man's window. The eldest girl lured a husband with the money. Twice more Saint Nicholas visited the home, with similar gratifying results. The last time he was waylaid by the father and profusely thanked. Saint Nicholas asked that no one be told. Afterwards he continued to deposit gifts secretly but, somehow, people always found out he was the donor.

Saint Nicholas is also the patron saint of children. So it was not long before he was credited with giving gifts to the children at Christmas time. In most countries, he is still Saint Nicholas. The name "Santa Claus" is of American origin. The Dutch brought the legend to America but the English children could not quite pronounce "Sint Nicolaas" and called him "Santa Claus."

The early Santa Claus was depicted on the lines of the real Saint Nicholas, the Bishop of Asia Minor in the Fourth century, a tall thin man with a beard. Through the years, however, the beard has been long or short, full or straggly, according to the fashion of the time. Our conception of the fat jolly gentleman with the red cheeks and twinkling eyes, is entirely due to Clement Moore who, in 1822, wrote *The Night Before Christmas*.

Nor does Saint Nicholas - Santa Claus always arrive in a reindeer-drawn sleigh from the North Pole. On Dec. 6 he comes to the Dutch children, dressed in archbishop's robes, by way of a steamboat from Spain, and accompanied by a horse and a small African helper called Peter.

The Dutch also originated the custom of hanging stockings. In Holland they set out their wooden shoes, with hay for Saint Nicholas's horse. The next morning the hay would be gone and presents would be in the shoes. Then when they settled in America, stockings took the place of the shoes.

The stockings, or shoes, idea is also popular in many places. In Venezuela, the children leave their shoes out Christmas Eve, for the gifts which will be brought by *El Nino Jesus*, instead of the traditional Saint. And in Czechoslovakia (pre Iron Curtain) the children left stockings which were filled by Saint Nicholas, who came down the chimney accompanied by an angel, who promised to reward the good children, and by a devil, who spanked the bad ones. In Brazil, the children leave their shoes to be filled —by *Papae Noël*.

In Norway, Santa leaves his gifts on Christmas Eve beneath the Christmas tree and the youngest child in the family has the honor of distributing them on Christmas Day.

MARGARET NESS

WATCHING *for Santa Claus: 5-year-old Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. MacKay-Smith, of Ottawa.*

Photo: Capital Press

women

ADMIRING *early Christmas gifts: 5-year-old Peter, son of Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Doull, of Halifax.*

Photo: Wright

Conversation Pieces:

FROM the Tirol comes an odd Christmas legend associated with silver spoons. On Christmas Eve, a bowl of milk is placed on the table beside a picture of the Nativity and a lighted candle. Each member of the family rests a spoon against the bowl. Then they go to church. If, when they return home, they find that one spoon has moved into the bowl, the Virgin Mary is supposed to have passed by and placed it there; and the owner of the spoon will be blessed with good luck all the next year.

A bulletin from the Extension Department of the University of BC describes a Christmas table decoration made from water, acid and moth balls: "Fill a clear bowl with water. Color with vegetable coloring. Add 1 tbsp. citric acid and 2 tbsp. baking soda for each cup of water. Mixture will fizz. Then drop a handful of moth balls into the solution and watch them dance."

Duncan (*Adventures in Good Eating*) Hines thinks women are the best carvers. "Men carve in hunks. Women, who have a more delicate touch, usually carve nice even slices." He also has a word on the etiquette of a turkey dinner. "Asking for a second helping is the greatest compliment you can pay your hostess."

Here is a recipe for rum cranberry punch, from *The Christmas Cookbook* by Zella Boutell (Macmillan, $4.75): combine 1 pt. rum, 2 cans undiluted frozen orange juice, 1 qt. cranberry juice, ½ cup sugar. Pour over a block of ice in a large punch bowl. Add 1 qt. ginger ale. Garnish with mint leaves and thin slices of orange, lemon or lime. Serves 12.

Is a taste for political life hereditary? Mrs. Gladys Porter, Mayor-elect of Kentville, NS, is the daughter of the first Mayor of Sydney and the niece of a former MPP. This isn't Mrs. Porter's first stint as Mayor, either. She served two terms, starting in 1946; was defeated in 1950 by the man whom she, in turn, has now defeated.

Character study: if you have curved eyelashes, you are a calm person; if lashes are short and straight, you have a nervous temperament; if lashes are thin at outer ends, you are lazy.

Famous old St. Pancras borough in London is being "surveyed" by 50 students from 25 countries, to see how it "ticks." Among the students are Miss L. P. Cathcart, of Moncton, NB, and Miss M. R. Nicholson, of Sturgis, Sask.

Canadian Repertory Theatre in Ottawa has quite a feminine roster this year. Managing director is actress Amelia Hall, and set designer is Penelope Geldart. In CRT's recent North American première of Noel Coward's *Relative Values*, Araby Lockhart, of Toronto, appeared as guest star.

Dr. Lois Myrl Myers, of London, has been granted a fellowship for special training abroad in the field of cancer. She is the second to win this scholarship by the Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario Division Bursary. Dr. Myers is a 1951 graduate of the University of Western Ontario.

Leo Ritter, of New York and Montreal, reports that fox is still holding its own after making a sensational comeback last year. Fox dyed sky-blue, face powder pink or orange is the newest trend. Muffs will be important this year; especially popular is a square style in white and black fox, and a barrel shape in black seal.

Florence Lougheed, of Winnipeg, has been awarded a Kinsmen's scholarship at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London. Florence has been studying in England for the last 18 months.

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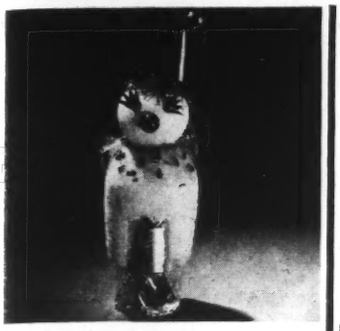
ON CHRISTMAS DAY: *4-year-old Ann Rosemary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David G. Sloan, of Victoria, and granddaughter of the Hon. Gordon McG. Sloan, Chief Justice of BC.*
Photo: Helmuth Goertz

CHRISTMAS is for children

TWIN GIFTS *are needed for Leslie (l) and Norman, the almost six-year-old twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Dallin, of Saskatoon, Sask.*
Photo: Hillyard

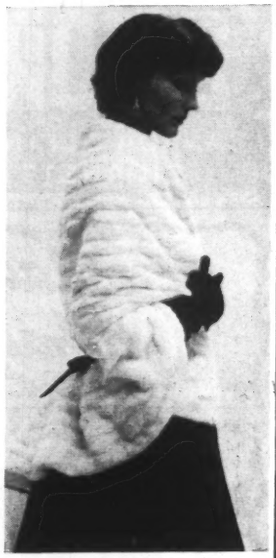
CELEBRATING *her second Christmas is 17 months old Martha, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cochrane, of Toronto.*
Photo: Ashley & Crippen



GAY *"Tinkle-Top" with its Gemey Frozen Fragrance, by Richard Hudnut, $2.50.*

SET *of bag and shoes in Davis baby calf. Shoe has new dagger heel. At Owens and Elmes, shoes, $16.95; bag, $16.95.*

Photo: Ashley & Crippen



christmas gifts

SNOW-WHITE *ermine wrap, by Maximilian. In Canada, only at Holt Renfrew.*

BOX *of perfume, cologne and soap, in matching Goya fragrances, $2.50.*

NEW *china figurine, by Margaret Bryan, called "Candlelight". By Paragon; 6½ inches, $11.50.*

Photo: Nelson Hitchinson

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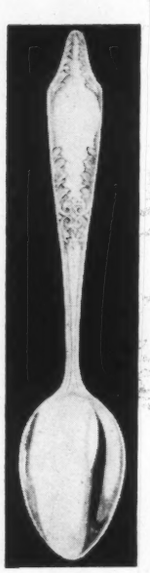

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BOX *of lavender scented bath salts, talcum powder and soap, and bottle of Lavender, by Yardley, $6.50.*

Photo: Batten

Itching to Finish This?

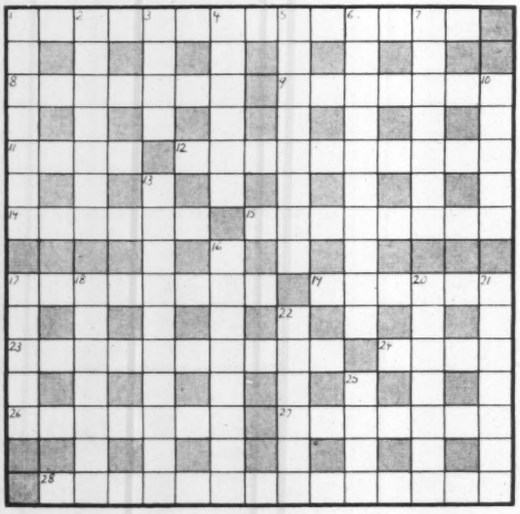
BY LOUIS AND DOROTHY CRERAR

ACROSS

1. Sounds as if she's full of knowledge—of the wrong kind. (14)
8. Couch for the hobo? (7)
9. A small one might be a baby sitter. (4, 3)
11. She's a bit of an ignoramus! (4)
12. Of purpose for the bachelor? (10)
14. Breaking lances on the dirt track? (6)
15. Howls and eats Lulu. (8)
17. Approbation at cricket, and there's a catch to it, sir! (4, 4)
19. Breaks out into the 28, perhaps. (6)
23. He's like rain at a ball-game! (10)
24. Gets the wind up when returning a dirty look. (4)
26. Abstract a book on pie — mince, of course. (7)
27. X or + to. (7)
28. This will keep one up to scratch for a long time. (5, 5, 4)

DOWN

1. The C.I.O. norm is surely not this! (7)
2. Rose had a fishy appearance. (4, 3)
3. Points to the fact that niblicks don't admit defeat. (4)
4. A crooked road in to the church? (6)
5. Get-rich-quick flower. (8)
6. Journeymen? (10)
7. Stuff that (bad) dreams are made of? (7)
10. Records in some cases made by jockeys? (5)
13. Paradoxically those who are, are often tight. (2, 3, 5)
16. Mostly comfortable on foot, but uncomfortable under. (8)
17. This often makes a stew? (5)
18. Give Somebody a roaring reception. (7)
20. Stop before a "five and ten" to make change? (7)
21. Daub a lot in the middle. (7)
22. Fleet, but not too fleet for the bowling. (6)
25. Getting these, Shakespeare's man had 28's number. (4)



Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Misshapen
6. Nevin
9. Thermos
10. Presser
11. Horoscopes
12. Otto
14. Surveyed
15. Hearts
17. Hoards
19. Campfire
23. Peri
24. Wonderment
26. Enclose
27. Agitate
28. Spend
29. Ethelbert

DOWN

1. Matches
2. Swearer
3. Homesteads
4. Pushover
5. Nipper
6. See 25
7. Visitor
8. Nervous
13. Pepper mill
16. Hard cash
17. Hyphens
18. Auricle 20. Iterate
21. Entreat 22. Cohere
25. 6 down. Boyd Neel (292)

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Films

Original Discovery

So Big is a remake of Edna Ferber's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the twenties. It wouldn't win any Pulitzer Prize in 1953, but it is easy to understand why Warner Brothers still felt it worth while to return it to the screen for the third time.

Miss Ferber must be given credit for making the original discovery that one brave, wise, true-hearted woman with a gift for generalization is worth a dozen of her foolish money-grubbing male contemporaries. Twenty-five years ago the Ferber novel struck one of the richest veins in modern popular fiction; and while the old gold mine is turning out some pretty low-grade ore these days, it still manages to pay off handsomely on screen and radio.

The current version of *So Big* may be even more popular than its predecessor, in which Barbara Stanwyck played the role of the ineffable Selina. Miss Stanwyck was tough and valiant and handled the windy abstractions of the script like a veteran. But she has a limited capacity for pathos and she never looks her best in a beaten-up old hat, two fields in which Jane Wyman is supreme.

So we have Jane as the Ferber heroine who is tossed out into the world with nothing much by way of patrimony except a generalization bequeathed by her wheat-cornering father: that some people are wheat and some emeralds. The wheat-people, it seems, are the ones who produce, and the emerald-people the ones who appreciate. Selina, of course, is both, and presently she marries a Dutch farmer (Sterling Hayden) who is neither—can't appreciate the beauty of cabbages, can't even raise cabbages. He dies, and Selina dedicates herself to improving the farm and her son Dirk, or So Big. The farm prospers, but Dirk is winter-blighted. "If you forsake Beauty, Beauty will turn her back on you," Selina warns him when he abandons architecture and heads for success in the sales promotion field. And sure enough Beauty does, in the person of a spry young artist (Nancy Olson) who lectures him almost as tirelessly as his mother, then goes off with a beauty-loving, and successful, orchestra-leader. This leaves poor Dirk, or So Big, flat on his face, which is exactly the position Author Ferber had arranged for him from the opening chapter.

Since *So Big* was written, the suffering and triumphant Selina has been formalized into a pattern which any experienced actress can fill out. Jane Wyman is competent in the role, but the same can hardly be said for Sterling Hayden, whose Farmer de Jong is a real Piltdown man, at once rudimentary and phoney. Neither Steve Forrest as the grown-up So Big nor the young actor, Tommy Rettig, who play the same role as a child, can be blamed if he is less than satisfactory. They must have felt pretty sheepish about the whole thing.

Warner Bros.

STERLING HAYDEN and JANE WYMAN in a scene from "So Big".

Sneak previews are a good deal like disposal sales of unclaimed goods. You pay your money and dispense with choice. Then, when the parcel is opened, you may discover something surprisingly worthwhile. On the other hand you may be struck with a lead paperweight.

Veils of Baghdad, starring Victor Mature, comes under the lead paperweight heading. Here we have Actor Mature as an adventurer busily assisting, or maybe frustrating, the Grand Vizier of Baghdad in selling out the Ottoman Empire. It's a little hard to give anything more than a generalized account of what goes on in this picture. The plot was deeply confused, the dialogue seemed to have been put together by the studio office-boy, and since I sat far back under the gallery, most of the action on the wide screen appeared to be carried on by headless giants. The audience took it good-naturedly, laughing as heartily at the passionately garbled love-making as though the script-writer had actually intended to be funny. On the whole, the management was wise to run *The Veils of Baghdad* as a sneak-preview. It is the kind of picture that could only be sold under wraps.

Back to God's Country, seemed, if only by contrast, fairly bracing entertainment. It is the screen version of a James Oliver Curwood serial, one of those popular action stories so openly and guilelessly contrived that they are beyond critical attack. The good characters and the bad are solidly lined up in the first ten minutes and you know that nobody will swerve by a hair's breadth outside the pattern laid down for him. You recognize the speeches before they are out of the actors' mouths, you can assess the plot value of every candidly planted shot, you know just where the big interior climax will come (about two-thirds of the way through), and how it will lead step by step to the inevitable logic of the happy ending. The whole thing is as simple and stirring and repetitive as a Sousa March, and you have only to fall in with the beat to be entertained.

MARY LOWREY ROSS

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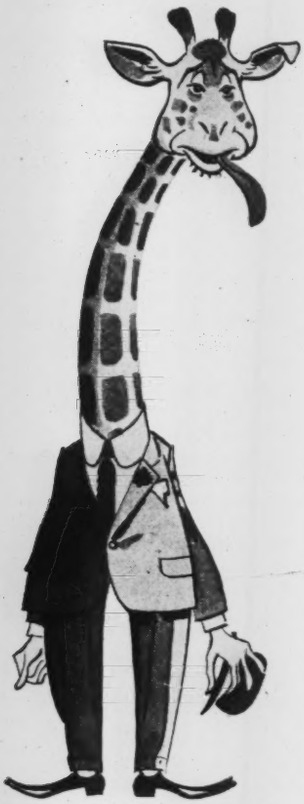

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Letters

Randolph Replies

IN YOUR issue of November 7, Mr. Beverley Nichols refers to a speech I made on September 10 and says that:

"Apart from a guarded paragraph in the *Observer*, I have seen no reference to the astonishing speech which Randolph Churchill recently made in London, on the subject of the British Press." This is strange from one who purports to survey the London scene for the benefit of Canadian readers. No account of the speech appeared in *The Times*, but quite long reports appeared in the *Daily Express*, the *Manchester Guardian*, the *Daily Mirror*, the *Morning Advertiser* and *World's Press News*. It was more briefly noticed in the *News Chronicle* and a number of provincial papers. *Tribune* printed it in full. The *Observer* paragraph from which Mr. Nichols first heard of it was published two and a half weeks after the speech was made.

I notice that Mr. Nichols, while quoting the name of Lord Kemsley for whom he works and to whom he gives a gushing testimonial, omits, from a portion of my speech which he quotes, the name of Lord Rothermere. This seems to me an odd form of journalism, and I trust that you will publish this letter lest any of your readers might suppose that it was someone other than Lord Rothermere whom I was denouncing for making money by the sale of pornography.

RANDOLPH S. CHURCHILL
Aylesbury, Bucks, U.K.

Archaic Title?

IN YOUR November 21 issue, under "Letters" a Mr. James Harding expresses himself on the subject of a Canadian aristocracy. I assume he writes with an anticipatory gleam in his eye like a small boy about to touch off a heap of fireworks. He should be rewarded by the explosions and rocket bursts of national-minded Canadians. Quite possibly, at that, a number of Canucks would be happy to assist Mr. Harding in his crusade to the extent of altering the archaic title, "House of Commons," to a more democratic one.

Toronto GORDON WALLACE

Wedge Driver

IN YOUR edition of Nov. 28, you carried a letter from a Mr. Sunstrom, of Buffalo, NY, in which he declared Sen. McCarthy to be a great patriot and a great American.

Would a truly great American try to drive a wedge between the American and British peoples at a time when the safety of the whole of the free world depends on the co-operation and mutual trust and respect of all those nations free of Communism, and who are working together so that they shall retain that freedom, and on whose joint efforts will depend the future of all mankind . . .?

Ottawa RHODA J. FINNERON

Training Teachers

IN HIS REVIEW of "So Little For The Mind" (November 14), Robertson Davies appears to endorse Dr. Neatby's charges that "Doctors of Pedagogy" in the training schools "have planted the pernicious doctrine that teacher-technique is of more importance than a knowledge of the subject taught" and that in their training colleges they promote an insidious program of Dewey indoctrination, ("the Dewey opium pipe"). May I therefore offer the following facts overlooked by Dr. Neatby? I speak only for the institution with which I am associated. Others are quite capable of speaking for themselves.

The School of Education at the University of British Columbia: requires that all students be university graduates, having completed honors in one, or majors in each of two subjects ordinarily taught in the high schools; works closely and harmoniously with all related academic departments at the university; has an advisory council of twenty-six, of whom six are professional educationists and twenty, heads of faculties and departments in the subject fields; has encouraged many students to plan for further graduate work in *academic* fields; endorses the government regulation that a graduate of the teacher-training course may qualify for an advanced high school certificate by completing an additional year's work, three-fifths of which may be in his *academic* field; encourages students to think independently with respect to education theories; . . . has in the past five summers employed visiting instructors in educational history and philosophy representing various points of view and coming from, Britain (1), United States (1), Canada (2), and Europe via the United States (1); has this year sponsored a conference on "Conflicting Theories of Education" in which other-than "Progressive" points of view were ably presented by such recognized men as Jacques Barzun, Father Carr, Ira Dilworth, T. Raymond McConnell, John Macdonald (Alberta), Paul Woodring, and others.

We do not believe in book-burning. We propose neither to ban nor to ignore Dewey (nor for that matter, Maritain, Adler, Livingstone, and others). We think the minds of university graduates should be worthy of respect and capable of independent thought. In this we seem to differ with Dr. Neatby and your book reviewer; for Dr. Neatby in setting out to "punch the pedagogues" has unwittingly revealed a basic lack of confidence in both university graduates and the quality of their undergraduate instruction . . .

We are far from complacent about the results of our course. We recognize many problems and short-comings; but contempt for learning and intent to indoctrinate cannot be numbered among them.

J. R. MCINTOSH
Director,
School of Education,
University of British Columbia.

Impertinence

BY WHAT RIGHT does a man rejoicing in the name Prychick presume to dictate to you what you shall put in your paper?

It is preposterous that anyone living in this country of which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth is Queen should have the impertinence to write of her in such terms.

I hope you will continue to give us all the available information about her and her illustrious husband, and that any similar communications you receive will find their way quickly into the WPB.

Ottawa JOHN LOUGH

Election Costs

POLITICAL LIBERTY is one of your favorite themes, but aren't you wasting your time? I offer the evidence of the recent municipal elections to support the belief that people simply are not interested in having political liberty as long as they can live comfortably. . . . It is absurd to go to the expense of annual elections just to give a minority a chance to express an opinion on people who are, in the main, nonentities.

Winnipeg. E. J. CALVERLY

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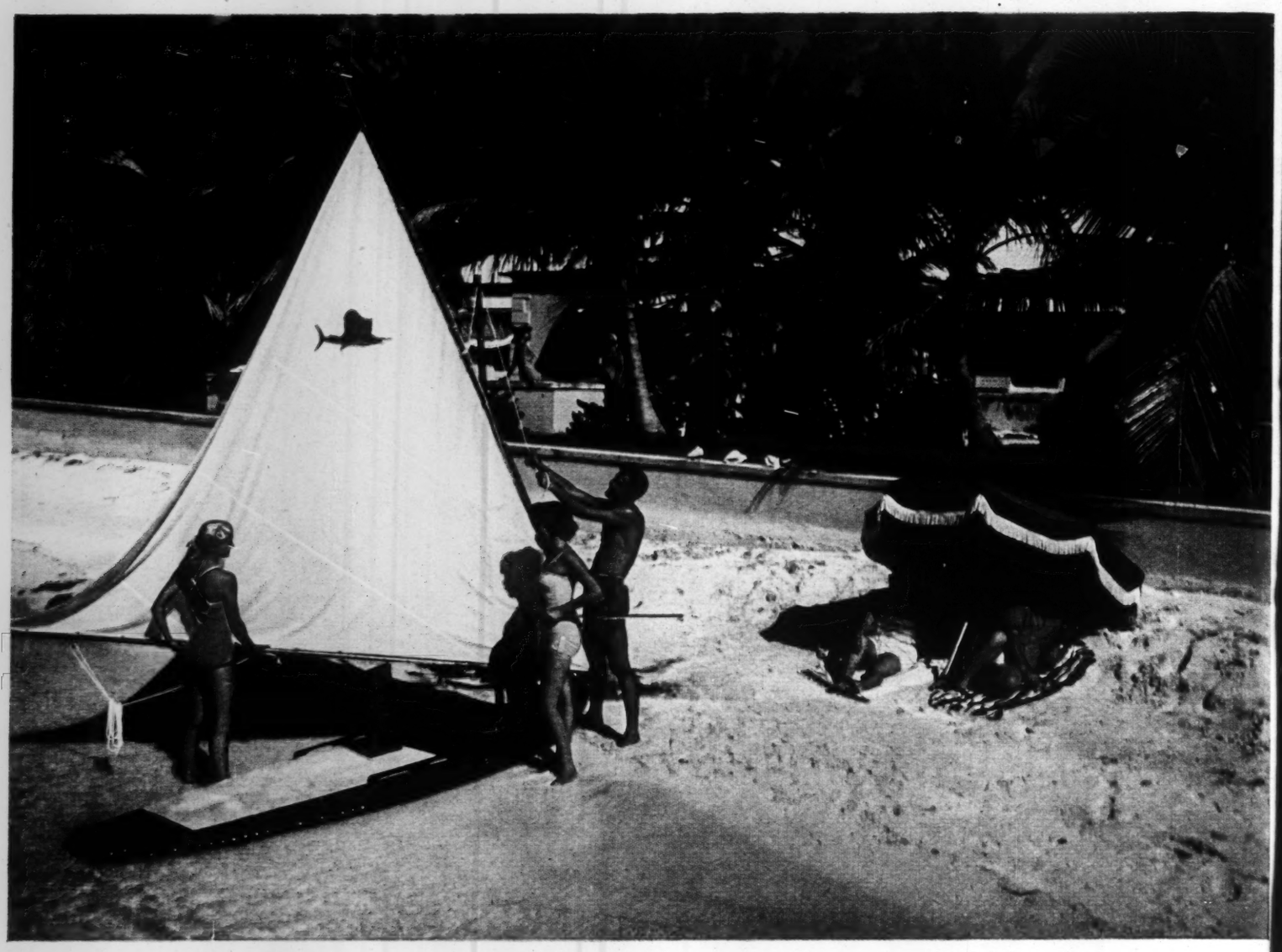

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